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Everyone enjoyed the Mermaid Parade last Saturday in Coney Island. Photos online.

FREAK SHOW

Critics: Plan is Coney baloney

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The city's plan to redevelop Coney Island with new rides, attractions, hotels and housing got a dressing-down during a boisterous public meeting on Tuesday.

Officially, the get-together was a preliminary step in the bureaucratic process towards transforming the charismatically shabby and seasonal amusement corridor into a year-round, can't-miss, theme park and entertainment district — but Coney Island being what it is, the event became a circus of street theater.

In fact, the spectacle of protest started three days before the meeting when the Queen of the Mermaid parade, Savitri D., perched herself in the Coney Island USA building on Surf Avenue and went on a hunger strike of less-than-historic proportions to show her disapproval of the city's plan (see page 13).

The crowd of about 200 people at Lincoln HS downed out the opening presentation of the city's plans for Coney Island — which is broken up into three regions, "Coney East" for rides, hotels and entertainment, and "Coney North" and "Coney West" for housing and commercial development.

Most of the ire was reserved for Coney East, bounded by the Boardwalk, Keyspan Park, the Cyclone roller coaster and Surf



Rev. Billy speaks against the city's plan for Coney Island on Tuesday.

Avenue, where the Bloomberg administration wants to buy land from private owners to create a nine-acre area zoned strictly for rides and amusements.

A single outside theme-park operator would be brought in to run the area. Existing landmarks like the Cyclone, Won-

der Wheel and defunct Parachute Jump would survive the city's buyout, but unprotected, individually operated, rides might be forced out.

The city in November called for a 15-acre, open-air theme park like Coney Island's Tivoli Gardens, but trimmed the plan because property owners, principally local land baron Joe Sitt, did not want to sell their tracts. Under the new proposal, such landowners would be allowed to develop lodges, restaurants and enclosed attractions — like a water park, bowling alley or arcade — on their land adjacent to the nine-acre amusement-only zone.

The result would be a 24-7-365 attraction, not the current hodgepodge of rides and games that shut down for nine months every year, city officials say.

"We looked very closely at not only at what Coney Island is today, but also what it was in its heyday and what it can be tomorrow," said Purnima Kapur, Brooklyn director for the Department of City Planning.

Following Kapur's presentation, a tri-unity of opposition figures led off the public-comment period, complaining that the city plan could end up turning the area into a generic strip mall filled with "entertainment retail" like a Nike superstore.

Dick Zigans, the irresponsible founder See CONEY on page 13



Falling water

The city turned on Olafur Eliasson's "New York City Waterfalls" on Thursday — sending East River water cascading back into the East River at four "waterfalls." The best place to see the project is, of course, from the Brooklyn Heights waterfront, both at the Fulton Ferry landing at the foot of Old Fulton Street and at a temporary park on Pier 1 on Furman Street.

The 4th — online

The Brooklyn Paper's print edition will skip the July Fourth weekend, but you won't miss a thing if you head for www.brooklynpaper.com, our award-winning Web site. We'll be updating daily — and that means more news, more Cyclones coverage, more entertainment tips, more podcasts and, of course, coverage of the hot-dot-eating contest at Nathan's on July 4 (pictured). Our print edition will return on Friday, July 11.



A RAIL PAIN

Cash-strapped MTA nixes rehab of Smith-Ninth, and 14 Hurst stations

By Ben Muesig
The Brooklyn Paper

A plan to renovate 15 deteriorating Brooklyn subway stations has been derailed by skyrocketing costs and budget shortfalls, Metropolitan Transit Authority officials announced this week.

The MTA will delay the long-scheduled and much-ballyhooed restoration of the Smith-Ninth Street F-train station in Carroll Gardens. The announcement comes less than a month after the MTA admitted that it was abandoning a plan to transform the dingy Fourth Avenue F-train station in Park Slope into a shiny, Euro-style transit portal.

As a result, Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) was reeling.

"How is it that we have millions of dollars to fund major projects like the Second Avenue subway, but can't find the money to fund Brooklyn's station renovations?" he asked. In addition to the Fing problem in Park Slope, the cutbacks also hit hard in Bensonhurst, where the Ninth Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway, New Utrecht Avenue, 71st Street,

79th Street, 18th Avenue, 20th Avenue, Bay Parkway, 25th Avenue, and Bay 50th Street stations on the D line; and the Eighth Avenue, Fort Hamilton Parkway, 62nd Street, and 18th Avenue stations on the N line will no longer be given a sprucing up.

The cash-strapped agency would not reveal how much the canceled renovations would save, but Straphanger's Campaign lawyer Gene Russianno, citing MTA documents, said the state would save \$220 million.

The renovation work was a part of a five-year, \$2.7-billion spending plan that started in 2005. But the money got eaten up by unforeseen cost increases, MTA officials said.

It's certainly not the first time that the MTA has promised more than it could deliver. Following this year's fare hike, the agency promised to spend \$30 million on expanded service, such as bus service from Red Hook to Manhattan, a better G train, late-night B-train service to Coney Island, a new bus from Williamsburg to Manhattan, and an extension to the B67 to Fulton Ferry in DUMBO.

None of those are happening now.



The decrepit Smith-Ninth station won't be fixed.

Junior's fishy situation

Cook is caught with lobster down pants

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about a shellfish employee!

A cook at Junior's Restaurant stuffed 15 lobster tails down his pants in a brazen attempt to steal the fancy fish from the Downtown institution, cops said.

Raymundo Flores was arrested on June 15 after co-workers say they caught him walking out of the venerable eatery with the frozen crustaceans.

The other kitchen workers discovered Flores, 40, stuffing the tails down his pants and in a pair of brown ankle braces just after 2 p.m., according to the police report.



'Lot' of 'park'-ing

Judges 'compromise' in car crisis

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

And this is the compromise?

The judge who oversees the Supreme Court workers who park their cars in a section of Columbus Park next to Borough Hall will now allow Brooklyn Law School students to park in the lot after hours.

The move comes after the judge, former Councilman Abe Gerges, vowed to find a compromise that would satisfy his car-driving judges and Brooklyn Heights residents who want their park back.

Those residents say Gerges failed miserably.

"It looks like an attempt to enlist a new ally. That parking perk breeds abuse," said Wiley Norvell, a spokesman for Transportation Alternatives.

In an interview, Gerges said he is just trying to ease parking woes for Downtown Brooklyn drivers who butte with students for nearby parking.

"For me it's a win-win situation,"

he said. "We permitted them to come in because it's better for the law students, it's better for the college, it's better for the community."

But community leaders don't buy it — the space near the corner of Joralemon and Adams streets is zoned as parkland. Office workers, residents and pedestrians need the open space for relaxation more than the judges need it for parking, Norvell said.

Indeed, that's the way it was supposed to be. When the city was building a new courthouse nearby a few years ago, then-Administrative Judge Michael Pesce told community leaders that his judges would park in a new lot in that building. That never happened, however, as judges cited security needs in the post-9-11 world.

Locals remember Pesce's promise and feel betrayed.

"You can't just make a promise and then say later, 'I changed my mind,'" said Community Board 2 District Manager Rob Ferris.



Past perfect

Park Slope chef Carolina Capehart en route to the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum to give visitors a taste of early 19th-century cuisine. See story on page 9.



POWERS OUTAGE HAS GOP IN FLUX

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The death of Frank Powers, who was briefly the Republican standard bearer to succeed disgraced Rep. Vito Fossella, has thrown the race for the Staten Island-Bay Ridge congressional seat into its natural state: turmoil.

For the second time this month, Republican leaders on both sides of the Narrows are scrambling to find a candidate to defend the city's only GOP congressional district during an election cycle that is favoring Democrats nationwide.

"We're still in flux," said Craig Eaton, chairman of the Kings County Republican organization.

Powers, who died Sunday in his Staten Island home from an apparent heart attack, had been selected by GOP leaders in both counties only after a series of higher-profile Republican officeholders had openly declined the invitation to seek the seat, which Fossella abandoned in the wake of his drunk-driving arrest and subsequent admission that he had fathered a child out of wedlock.

Powers, a GOP fundraiser for years, jumped into the breach, vowing to see the seat through.

See GOP on page 13



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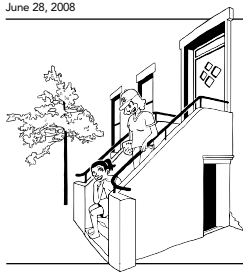
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THE stoop

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG

Bedford cuts automobiles

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Bedford Avenue is a great place to shop and dine — but on four Saturdays this summer, it will become the perfect place to lounge.

The city will close Bedford Avenue to traffic, turning the thoroughfare into a pedestrian-only plaza between Metropolitan Avenue and North Ninth Street.

Cars will still be able to cross Bedford on all the side streets, but each Bedford block will be traffic-free (that includes parked cars!) from noon to 7 p.m. on July 19, July 26, Aug. 2 and Aug. 9.

And unlike street fairs, which also bar traffic, the closing of Bedford Avenue — a project dubbed “Williamsburg Walks” — won’t have any scheduled events or programming.

“It’s really an experiment of letting the community take over the streets,” said event coordinator Connie Colvin. “People can sit out in the street and do whatever they’d like. We expect for it to be a reflection of the area and the community — the artistic community, the Polish community, the Latino community.”

Northside business owners are optimistic about increased foot traffic, but anxious about turning cars away.

“Of course it will be great for business because it will bring more people — but it’s not the best idea,” said Jada Pleasant, a sales rep at the North Fourth Street furniture store Wook. “Any time you close traffic, it’s really annoying for people who are using the roads. As a driver, I’m not into it. But as a business, it would be great.”

Colvin is arranging to have tables, chairs and benches brought to Bedford Avenue, but unlike a similar pedestrian plaza planned for Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights on summer Sundays, the longest street in the borough will not be covered with a carpet of artificial grass.

CARROLL GARDENS

Schucks! Pols shell oyster bar

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it the Mamary’s Law. Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Carroll Gardens) has won passage of her bill to make it harder for bar owners — like controversial would-be oyster bar owner Jim Mamary — to open saloons near schools and places of worship.

Both houses in Albany have passed Millman’s bill, which would make it illegal for bars to open if any part of the bar’s property is 200 feet or less from any part of a school and house of the body.

Currently, the law bans taverns whose front doors are within 200 feet of the maintenance of schoolhouses, churches, synagogues and mosques. That law left a loophole for crafty entrepreneurs, some of whom have rebuilt their establishments so their front door is just beyond the 200-foot mark.

“This change would not cost the state a dime, but it certainly would benefit our neighborhoods immensely,” Millman said, adding that she introduced the bill “largely in response to community input that we close this loophole.”

That input appears directed specifically at Mamary’s pro-



Jim Mamary wants to open a bar on Hoyt Street between Union and Sackett streets, but neighbors say it’s too close to a church to the north and a school to the south.

posed oyster bar on Hoyt Street between Union and Sackett streets. Neighbors say the entrance to that bar is 196 feet from St. Agnes Church at the corner of Sackett and Hoyt streets — meaning that the bar should not be permitted to open anyway. But residents worry that Mamary would reconfigure the entrance to use the loophole.

Mamary, who also owns the Black Mountain wine bar on Union Street around the corner from the proposed oyster bar, has been embroiled in a battle with his neighbors to win a liquor license for his newest venture since he bought it before the Community Board 6 Landmarks and Land-

Use Committee in January. He declined to talk about the new law.

“I don’t want to comment about any of it because it’s been a harrowing and expensive experience for me,” Mamary, an original partner in the beloved Smith Street bistro, Patios, told The Brooklyn Paper.

COBBLE HILL



Shortly after this rally to protest cuts at Long Island College Hospital, the facility announced more cuts.

More cutbacks at LICH

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Two weeks after its staff issued doom-and-gloom predictions about the long-term health of Long Island College Hospital, the Cobble Hill medical center said it would shut a program for sex crime victims on June 30.

Doctors are dismayed by the latest round of belt-tightening at the 150-year-old campus that, in recent years, has sold off property and shuttered other clinics in an effort to narrow a \$35-million deficit.

“The closing of the LICH program for victims of sexual abuse comes as another unwelcome surprise,” said Dr. Thomas Sorra, past president of the hospital’s medical staff, who added that an outpatient psychiatry center would also soon close.

Hospital administrators said that the LICH emergency room is still equipped to provide care to victims of rape, though it will no longer provide such follow-up services as finding housing or offering counseling.

“Women would be better off getting those services from larger, better-equipped agencies,” said LICH spokeswoman Zippa Drash, who said the Rape Crisis Intervention Program did not treat enough patients to justify keeping it open.

The hospital did not provide statistics on how many patients annually used the program.

In spite of the medical staff’s public outcry about LICH’s stability, state health experts say it is in better shape than some health institutions that bleed money for years.

Compared to Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge, for example, LICH is in good standing. Then again, Victory is closing for good later this month.

“There wasn’t anything you could do to save it [Victory Memorial Hospital] and it wasn’t worth saving,” said Martin Begun, a member of the state Berger Commission that recommended Victory’s closure in 2006. “LICH” was never even seriously considered for any dramatic changes.

FORT GREENE

Martyrs monument mischief

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The Parks Department has fired the electrician rushing to complete the restoration of the Prison Ship Martyrs’ monument in Fort Greene Park in time for its 100th anniversary in November — and now the agency is scrambling to finish the work on time.

The Brooklyn-based contractor Anie Bar and his company AARCO Electrical had been working on the monument that bears the remains of 11,000 Americans who died aboard British prison ships during the Revolutionary War.

But in May, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown indicted Bar and the company for defrauding employees out of \$650,000 in rightful wages on this and five other public projects.

As a result, the city booted Bar and AARCO from the job — and the Parks Department is now rushing to finish the job at one of the country’s most important, yet often overlooked, historical sites.

Many of the tasks are already completed or well underway, but the agency left open the possibility that it might not finish in time.

“We are ... determined to complete this important project in time to celebrate [the] centennial in November,” said Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson



The Prison Ships Martyrs Memorial crypt in Fort Greene Park was opened briefly last month for a congressional fact-finding mission.

in an e-mail. The 100th anniversary has again shone the spotlight on the monument, which historian David McCullough has called “one of the three most sacred sites in American history.” Though it fell into disrepair and neglect, the dedication in November, 1908 was such an important event that President Taft schlepped his considerable girth all the way to Fort Greene for the ribbon-cutting.

Last month, a congressional delegation visited the site on a fact-finding mission

that may lead to more federal funding. But that doesn’t mean that the pressure is off the city to wrap up the job, residents keeping a watchful eye on progress of the renovations.

“The work is like 98 percent done,” said Ruth Goldstein of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy, which is planning the festivities for the centennial. But, Goldstein added, “I won’t be happy ‘til I see it’s done.”

When asked about the charges against him, Bar hung up the phone on The Brooklyn Paper.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Welcome to cell

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Garment District is for clothing, the Diamond District is for jewelry, and Montague Street is for cellphones? Apparently so, now that AT&T will move its Cadman Plaza



Another cellphone store is coming to Montague Street. This former florist shop will be a new AT&T store.

West store to the block between Clinton and Henry streets later this summer, bringing to three the number of cellular stores on the block.

Employees confirmed that AT&T will move around the corner to the former location of James Weir Floral Company, joining a block that already boasts Verizon Wireless and Sprint PCS shops.

Neighbors say that three is a crowd. “I think it’s a bit excessive having three on one block,” said Linda Difazio. “It just doesn’t seem necessary.”

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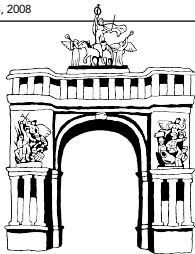
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THE SLOOO

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

Park is BBQ crazy!

By Emily Lavin
for The Brooklyn Paper

Illegal barbecuing in Prospect Park has gotten so out of control this summer that officials are deploying park rangers to crack down on a wave of grillers that even included one man pulling in a huge apparatus fit for a suburban backyard.

Complaints from non-BBQing park users has led the Prospect Park Alliance to send in the rangers to remind people that grilling is only legal in nine designated barbecuing areas.

"Our staff is definitely trying to be vigilant," said Alliance spokesman Eugene Patron, who acknowledged that more people have been cooking in the park this year. "We have rule cards that the rangers give out to people that explain fire dangers and tell them how to properly dispose of their hot coals."

It's no surprise that the Alliance is concerned about the smoky haze that has been covering vast portions of the park on summer weekends. Even casual users of the park have noticed that grill-toasting families are setting up camp wherever there's a nice patch of grass.

"The other evening I took a run and the haze of smoke around the park was incredible, you would have had to see it to believe it," Park Sloper James Burt told The Brooklyn Paper. "[The other day], I even witnessed someone wheeling in a huge Sears Kenmore gas grill. That definitely seems excessive."

Another resident, Jen Betten-court, was at the park over Memorial Day weekend, and saw most of the grillers blatantly



Barbecuers are setting up all over Prospect Park this summer, prompting Park officials to crack down. Here, Sandra Wilson cooks up her famous ribs.

ignore the park's restrictions. "It was so crowded that people basically parked their stuff wherever they could find a spot," Betten-court said. "There were adults, children and pets trying to navigate around smoking barbecues. The whole thing is just one big accident waiting to happen."

Patron noted that visitors to the park who continue to dis-

regard posted grilling regulations will be kicked out, but he stressed that as a last resort for handling the situation.

"We obviously don't want to have to ask anyone to leave, because everyone should be able to enjoy the space however they choose," Patron said. "We just ask that everyone be respectful of other people and of park rules, and that they let the rangers know if there are any problems."

Designated barbecue areas are adjacent to entrances at Third Street, Grand Army Plaza, Ninth Street, 10th Avenue, Parkside Avenue, Vanderbilt Street and Parkside Avenue at Parade Place.



Park Slopers are still complaining about airplane noise over the neighborhood, but officials say the din may soon end.

Cool your noisy jets

Slope complains about air traffic din

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The mysterious increase in noise in Park Slope from airplanes on route to LaGuardia Airport has been solved — perhaps — and the din could die down as soon as next month, The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

There was a "Eureka" moment at a meeting last Thursday when a Port Authority official recalled that about two years ago — roughly the time of the noisy change — a landmark that guides pilots to the Queens hub was moved to Rikers Island, which may have drawn approaching planes slightly westward and over the heart of Park Slope.

Euphoria swept the room when it was revealed that the radio tower would be returned to its original location near the airport next month. But the excitement gave way to cautious optimism after other officials aired doubts that the tower could be the sole cause of residents' auditory discomfort.

"We'll have to check back in a month," said Jim Williams, a Park Slope resident.

That said, the Port Authority, which runs the local airports, says things could get better for the residents, many of them between

Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, who say they began to feel like they're living on a tarmac two years ago.

"It's our understanding that there could ultimately be some benefit" when the tower moves back, Pasquale Drifusco, a PA spokesman, told The Brooklyn Paper.

But if the relocation doesn't silence the roar, things are unlikely to improve in the Slope, which is in the path to the LaGuardia runway.

"That's the way it is," said Mark Ward, a system support manager from the FAA at the meeting organized by Community Board 6 and Rep. Veste Clarke (D-Park Slope). "From our air-traffic perspective, we're going to land the planes in the most efficient way possible."

"Park Slope is right in the final approach," said Ward to the audience in the Berkeley Carroll School on Lincoln Place.

LaGuardia's short runways have been in their present configurations for decades and the FAA has no other answers, besides the radio tower theory, to the problem that's on the radar of many people in Park Slope.

"Oh absolutely, something has changed," said Frank Facio, a Park Slope resident. "When you look up in the sky, it's not a bird, it's not Superman, it's a plane."

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Armory won't open until 2009

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

The Park Slope Armory won't open until January, 2009 — 10 months after the gorgeously restored building was supposed to be operating.

The city held a ribbon cutting in February when it selected the Prospect Park YMCA to operate the Armory. At the time, officials said that a final contract would be signed quickly so that Y's team could begin planning programs.

But the contract remains unsigned. "Our plan is to ... have our full slate of programming by early 2009," said YMCA Executive Director Sean Andrews. "[We will] use the summer through the fall to get a handle on what the community wants to see in there, and then fully staff it for 2009."

The city and the Y say they are negotiating only the final issues, including maintenance and operations.

The \$16-million athletic center spans nearly an entire block between 14th and

15th streets and Seventh and Eighth avenues. The facility will primarily be used for track-and-field events, soccer, basketball and weight training. Andrews said the Y will also host teen and after-school activities, a camp and public meetings.

The city will continue to operate a 70-bed women's shelter there. And nearby schools will use the facility. The Y will generate revenue through donations, sponsorships, events and membership fees.

When it opens, that is.



Upcoming Seminar

Thursday, July 10

7:00 p.m.

Greenwood Baptist Church

461 6th Street (entrance on 7th Avenue)

Park Slope

Ask Your Neighbor What He's Doing to Protect His Historic Home

There are a number of neighborhoods in this part of New York that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and many home owners in those neighborhoods who have made the decision to preserve the architectural integrity of their homes forever. They are participating in the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program and have made historic preservation easement donations on the exterior of their buildings to qualified preservation organizations, often making them eligible to claim a tax deduction. The Trust for Architectural Easements is one of the largest preservation easement holding organizations in the nation, preserving the architectural integrity of the exterior of more than 800 historic buildings across the country, many of them in this area of New York.

To learn more about the Trust's local preservation efforts, the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentive Program, and the donation process, attend our free informational seminar, or contact Trust representative Bob Regevik at 718-832-8400 or rregevik@architecturaltrust.org to request a meeting or obtain more information.



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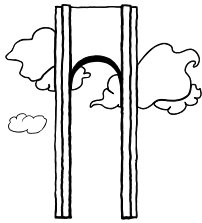
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THE STOOP

BAY RIDGE - BENSONHURST

DYKER HEIGHTS
BATH BEACH

Cops crack 93rd St drug den

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Police nabbed five suspected drug dealers who turned a peaceful Bay Ridge street into a block of fear and intimidation over the past three years.

Cops busted what they say are two neighboring drug houses on 93rd Street, between Third and Fourth avenues, charging Joseph Terrone, 54, Michael Terrone, 47, Ross Terrone, 45, and Erica Raffone, 31, with running a heroin, crack cocaine and prescription drug ring from the homes. The quartet is facing 25 years to life and is being held without bail.

Police also charged Alan Reilly, 61, with a lower drug selling offense. His bail is set at \$50,000.

A sixth suspect remains on the lam.

Residents of the block say they have been terrorized by the dealers and their clientele since the summer of 2005 — and they've been calling on the cops to nab them since.

In 2006, an online effort to take down the dealers started on the Internet message board bayridgetalk.com, where Web-savvy Ridgites formed en masse, posting more than 1,000



Ross, Michael and Joseph Terrone, Erica Raffone and Alan Reilly were arrested for selling drugs out of these two houses on 93rd Street.

responses on separate threads about the crack houses.

In October, Jason Miller, whose rear window looked into the backyard of the crack houses, called on Community Board 10 to take action.

"I have personally witnessed suspicious activity," Miller said at the time. "Not only does this alleged activity pose a direct threat to the safety of community members, but local businesses in our area have had to tolerate acts of vandalism, panhandling and harassment from the people who frequent the location."

In January, cops finally started investigating the alleged crack houses, but the case was complicated because almost all of the dealing took place behind closed doors.

Kings County District Attorney Charles Hynes said on Wednesday that if authorities know the size of the operation — which carried out "hundreds if not thousands of transactions," he said — they would have intervened sooner.

"It's a matter of priority," Hynes said. The 68th Precinct was dealing with the complaints as they came in, but I don't think anybody recognized that it was as expansive as it was."

No one that is, except for the Ridgites who live nearby.

"I was seeing people who were standing out on the street, trying to fix in any way possible — drug dealing, begging, prostitution," Miller said. "It was just a bad situation."



Community Board 10 has voted to ban street food vendors, like Mohammed Hassan, on 86th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Not dog! Food vendor ban strikes 86th St

By Sebastian Kahmert
for The Brooklyn Paper

A Bay Ridge community board voted unanimously last Wednesday to ban food vendors along a stretch of busy 86th Street.

Members of Community Board 10 said the handful of hot dog and other food vendors between Fourth and Fifth avenues was a menace that attracts crowds and litter.

"It would be best to have no vending at all," said the board's District Manager Joseph Beckmann. "It just causes problems. The issue is cleanliness."

The community board vendor ban request, which is only advisory, now heads to the city's Department of Small Business Services for further review. The proposal would affect the three vendors who regularly set up on the block. As you might expect, they weren't pleased.

"I have nothing else to support my family," said Sam Aped, 32, who sells chicken, lamb and falafel out of a silver food cart near the corner of 86th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The hard-working Aped started as a food vendor in Manhattan a year ago, but relocated to Bay Ridge to improve his business and nourish local shoppers.

"It's very difficult," he said while slicing eggplant. "If I have a job I do my best to keep that job."

Aped's customers certainly support his right to make a little selling low-cost food with little wait time.

"I don't see the benefit of banning them," said Kelene, a 26-year-old woman who ordered a hot dog. "I just want something quick and easy without the wait."

Another customer, Kavin Boston, agreed.

"They just sell good food," said Boston, who looked forward to indulging in a chicken gyro. "You can't find that at McDonald's — that's why I come here."

But at least one 86th Street restaurant owner showed little sympathy for his competition. "I would bomb them out if I could," said the restaurateur, who requested anonymity for obvious reasons.

Evict this 'trailer' park now!

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Ten years after it turned a city park into a trailer park, the Department of Education says it is almost ready to remove two temporary classrooms from a Leif Ericson Park — but neighbors worry that the tin-walled learning boxes may have become permanent fixtures.

When the Department of Education installed the bright red trailers across the street from the Telcom-communication HS in 1998, the portable classrooms were supposed to stay for just one year while the school underwent renovations.

But the work took four years, and before workers could remove the trailers — which block the 67th Street and Fourth Avenue entrance to the park — the city announced that they would remain until an annex was built for the school.

When construction on the annex finished last year, Ridgites were ready for the temporary classrooms to go — but the trailers remained, even though students no longer are using them.

"They always find a new reason to leave the trailers there," said Jim O'Dea, former president of the 67th Street Block Association, who has rallied against the trailers for a decade. "No one wants to put the students out there in the street, but after



The two red trailers in Leif Ericson Park were once used as classrooms but are now vacant.

the annex was built, the school has no more use for the trailers."

Department of Education spokeswoman Marge Feinberg begged to differ.

"We are conducting extensive work at the school and need the trailers for construction purposes," Feinberg said. "Once the work is completed at the school, we are going to remove the trailers and rehabilitate the park."

We have funding for removing trailers and will do so when the work at the school is completed."

According to Assistant Principal Patricia Rogers, workers are currently

renovating the auditorium. That project should be done by the end of the year — which can't come too soon for school officials, who are eager for the trailers to leave.

"We moved out of them completely on Feb. 1 — we're ready for them to go," Rogers said.

Even though the temporary classrooms haven't budgeted in a decade, O'Dea has a plan to get them out of the park.

"They've been telling me the same thing for 10 years," O'Dea said. "But this time they are going to move — or we'll bring this to court."

Recchia: Bad loan not my fault

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Councilman Domenic Recchia said a case of internal corruption at a non-profit that he funded has nothing to do with him.

Recchia (D-Coney Island) said he directed \$600,000 to the Sephardic

Angel Fund because it does good work in the community.

As part of its coverage of the ongoing City Council "slush fund" scandal, the Daily News played up Recchia's role in funding a group that improperly gave a board member a \$50,000 interest-free loan.

But the councilman, who is expected to soon announce his run for borough president, said, "I don't do anything with the day-to-day operations [of the non-profit]. Of course, a board member should not give him or herself a loan. Something happened, and they corrected it. I did nothing wrong here."

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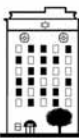
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ARREST IN DATE-NIGHT SLOPE SLASHING

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope
Cops have arrested the ex-con they believe viciously slashed a woman as she walked home along Sixth Avenue after finishing her shift at the Park Slope Food Coop on Sixth Avenue on June 17. Thomas Russo — who officials said was out of jail even after violating his parole — was arrested on Tuesday for slashing the 39-year-old Fort Greene woman as she was walking near Lincoln Place at just before midnight.

That's when she noticed that a man was walking a few steps in front of her. He bent down and pretended to tie his shoe — only to pounce on her and slash her head, arm and leg with his blade.

He also struck her in the head, fracturing her skull.

Cops say the victim remembered seeing Russo earlier at a bodega — and, sure enough, surveillance footage from the deli allowed authorities to ID the suspect as an ex-con who violated his parole with an April bust for marijuana, the New York Post reported on Thursday.

That bust should have sent him back to jail, but parole officials sent him to drug treatment instead, the Post reported.

78TH PRECINCT

Clear streets
At least one car owner has become a victim to this summer's alternate-side-of-the-street parking suspension after leaving her car on Second Street for 18 days.

Because the city has allowed Park Slopers to skip the weekly or twice-weekly ritual of moving their cars, the owner of the 1993 Honda, who left it on the block between Sixth and Seventh avenues on June 3, didn't even know that her car had been stolen until she returned to it on June 21.

In an unrelated twist, another car thief stole a 1998 Nissan Maxima from a spot on St. Marks Avenue between Fifth and Sixth avenues on June 19. In this case, the car had only been in the space for about three hours.

Mystery burg

This one is for Agatha Christie.

A man told cops that an iPod and a digital camera were stolen from his Fifth Avenue apartment while he slept on June 20 — but there was no sign of a break-in or even a slip-in.

The man, who lives between 12th and 13th streets, told cops that he went to bed at 7:20 a.m. and left the electronic equipment on a table inside his front door. When he woke up at 1 p.m., the stuff was gone.

Lookout!

A new Fifth Avenue barbecue joint didn't live up to its name when a burglar broke in after hours on June 16 and stole \$600 from a safe.

The owner of Lookout Hill told cops that the restaurant, which is at President Street, was unoccupied from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m., when the break-in occurred.

Double burg

Two 11th Street apartments were broken into by the same thieves who got away with electronics and jewelry on June 17. Cops say the team entered the building, which is between Second and Third avenues, at around 2 p.m. First, they hit a 34-year-old woman's apartment, taking a \$6,000 engagement ring and a fancy watch.

Next, they broke into a 33-year-old man's unit, taking a laptop and several jewelry items.

Cops are looking for two 10-year-olds. One is 5-foot-8, 150 pounds and the other is 5-foot-5, 140 pounds. Both have short, Caesar-style haircuts, cops said.

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO Downtown-Boerum Hill Shattered glass

Cops arrested two thugs in Brooklyn Heights after they beat up a man and tried to steal his wallet on June 22.

The Boerum Hill man was waiting at the corner of Hicks and Cranberry streets at around 3 p.m. when one mugger used the old "What time is it?" distraction.

While the victim was considering the question, the other thug demanded, "Give me your wallet."

Offering some advice, the first thug then added, "He's got a gun, so give us your wallet."

When the victim refused, one mugger smashed a glass bottle across his face, and the two men fled.

14TH PRECINCT

14TH PRECINCT

A half-hour later, cops found the muggers and arrested them.

14TH PRECINCT

14TH PRECINCT

A thug mugged a DUMBO woman on Washington Street on June 19, first following her for several blocks and then punching her in the face and snatching her iPhone.

The victim was near Front Street at around 4:20 a.m. when the man stopped her for directions.

He then followed her into a grocery store on the corner, punched her in the face, grabbed the phone, and ran off.

POLICE BLOTTER

To market

A brazen robber stole a wallet from a woman's baby bag on June 17 while she shopped at the farmer's market in Columbus Park, cops said.

The Brooklyn Heights woman was choosing her vegetables at around 3:30 p.m. when the robber unzipped her bag, reached in, and grabbed the wallet. By the time she realized it was missing, the perp had already used her credit card.

Hood-winked

A shotgun-toting hoodlum stole \$400 from an Atlantic Avenue bodega on June 19, cops said.

Police said that the hoodie-wearing gunman entered the store at around 2:30 a.m., showed off his piece, and said, "Give me your money or I will shoot you."

The clerk handed over the cash without a fight, and the robber fled toward Bowd Street.

Motorcade away

Burglars stole a man's new Honda motorcycle on June 21 as he was brushing his teeth in his Henry Street apartment.

The victim told cops he was in the bathroom of the apartment, which is at Atlantic Avenue, at around 10:20 p.m. when he heard a loud noise outside.

When he raced to the street, he noticed that his bike was gone and a brown minivan was fleeing south towards Cobble Hill.

Wants for Xmas

A ruffian violently mugged a man on Washington June 19.

76TH PRECINCT

Red Hook-Cobble Hill Carroll Gardens Banks are safer

A woman told police that someone stole \$4,000 from her home on Bond Street between April 15 and June 7.

The 20-year-old woman told cops that she had stowed the money in her closet in her apartment, which is between Wyckoff and Baltic streets.

She told police that she was keeping the money bunkered down in the cupboard until she could get a safe deposit box, but by the time she realized that goal, the cash was gone.

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Sneak attack

A 39-year-old Clinton Avenue was thrown to the pavement and mugged by two hoodlums on June 15.

The fitness buff's run was interrupted near the corner of DeKalb Avenue at around 10 p.m. when attackers grabbed him from behind, placed him in a chokehold and knocked him down.

The robbers stole the 26-year-old victim's iPod.

Wants for Xmas

A ruffian violently mugged a man on Washington June 19.

The attacker knocked the 31-year-old victim to the ground at the corner of Lafayette Avenue at 3:50 a.m. and kicked him in the mouth, breaking his two front teeth.

Music man

Burglars sneaked into a St. James Place dwelling on June 16 and stole a man's DJ equipment, as well as his wedding ring.

The 47-year-old victim told police that he was not home from 1:20 to 10:30 p.m., when he returned to find that his mixer, two CD players and hard drive were missing from his apartment, which is between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues.

Busted

Cops arrested four teenage hoodlums for mugging another teen at the corner of Gates and Washington avenues on June 18.

The quartet, ranging in age from 14 to 17, seized the victim, lifted him off the ground and hurled him to the concrete sidewalk before they stole his iPod. Shortly after the 10:30 a.m. incident, police apprehended four teens fitting the description of the muggers.

Off the streets

Juvenile delinquents mugged a woman on Clinton Street on June 17, but police later apprehended one of the minors.

According to the 26-year-old victim, several adolescents approached her at the corner of Fulton Street at 9:05 p.m. and demanded that she fork over her cash.

When she refused to give in, the gang showed her and snatched the purse, containing a phone, her ID and banking and credit cards.

Spammed

The off-fake e-mail trick fooled an Oliver Street woman into handing over \$4,500 on June 6.

The victim reported the incident to police 10 days later, claiming that someone posing as a bank rep needed her personal info to keep her account open.

The woman's reply e-mail included her Social Security and bank account numbers, address and mother's maiden name. And that was more than the scammer needed to pilfer her account.

Gun on the loose

A rude houseguest stole a man's gun out of the safe in his Ridge Boulevard apartment on June 17.

The gun owner, who lives near the corner of 74th Street, told police that he was in the bathroom at around 10 p.m. when the soon-to-be-former pal snatched his keys. About 90 minutes later, the gun owner realized that his Smith and Wesson, worth more than \$500, was gone.

Delivered

Two armed perps robbed a deliveryman of more than \$2,000 on June 18.

The victim told police that he was stopped at a light at 14th Avenue and 65th Street at around 12:30 p.m. when the bad guys distracted him by saying that his side door was open.

After he pulled over, the thugs

RED-FOOTED! Bank robber's shoes, stained with dye, give him away

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops caught a bank robber red-footed on June 19, nabbing a dye-stained man who was still carrying thousands in booty that he allegedly took from the Astoria Federal branch on Fifth Avenue.

According to police, the hoodlum entered the branch, which is at the corner of 10th Street, at around noon and demanded money from the teller, who handed over a bag filled with \$13,222 and at least one exploding dye pack.

The crook fled in his 1996 Cadillac, but abandoned it in the parking lot of the Commerce Bank, at First Street, after the dye pack detonated and sprayed red ink all over the posh interior.

A manager of the Commerce Bank saw the dye-stained car and called cops, who soon spotted a man on the corner of President Street trying to hail a cab.

They didn't need a warrant to quickly figure out that this guy was a prime suspect: His shoes were tinted with red dye, his pant-leg concealed an envelope with \$9,355 and he also had an ink-stained sock containing the remaining money.

The 36-year-old Bedford-Stuyvesant man was arrested.

68TH PRECINCT

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DEVELOPING STORIES

BROOKLYN BUILDS

Ikea has meatballs, couches and ... jams



Cars line up along Bay Street at Clinton Street, slowly but surely making their way to the new Ikea on Beard Street.

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Quiet Red Hook streets became bumper-to-bumper traffic jams when hordes of furniture-crazed shoppers flocked to the newly opened Ikea on its debut weekend.

Once-dreary roads that connect the Beard Street big box with the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway saw such a big uptick in traffic that cops from the 76th Precinct rushed in to police the area and bolster the efforts of 17 off-duty officers hired by Ikea to handle traffic.

More than three times as many cars drove down Bay Street during a one-hour period on Sunday, June 22, compared to one week earlier, according

to a count by The Brooklyn Paper.

All told, 810 cars drove on Bay Street on June 22, compared to 235 the week before.

Red Hook residents say that the influx of cars made Columbia Street look more like a parking lot than a thoroughfare.

"It was surreal. I've never seen so much traffic in my life," said Jay McKnight, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association. "I was fearful of crossing Columbia Street — it was bumper to bumper and everyone seemed like they were in a hurry, trying to get into parking cars."

To handle traffic, Ikea built a 140-space primary parking lot and acquired a temporary overflow lot on the neighboring site of the former Re-

vere Sugar refinery, which it has secured at least until Labor Day.

Before opening, the furniture giant also paid to put up new signs directing drivers to the store, and hired 17 off-duty NYPD cops to form a "paid detail unit" that would help direct traffic.

But even with Ikea's preparations, cars clogged Red Hook roads. Employees of a private security company that was helping direct traffic said that both parking lots were near capacity on Sunday.

"There are just a few spots left. It's overcrowded," said one employee who was leading drivers to parking spaces in the main lot. "We're waiting for someone to come out before we can let someone in. It's pretty much car for car."

And the traffic was so thick on the streets that the 76th Precinct had to dispatch additional cops to help the "paid detail unit" move traffic through Red Hook, a police source told The Brooklyn Paper.

Ikea officials will not release any information about the number of customers who visited the new store — which was expected to draw about 17,000 shoppers on weekend days — nor would they comment on the number of cars that pulled into its lots.

Ikea spokesman Joseph Roth said that traffic congestion in Red Hook will lessen as time goes on.

"Grand opening times are the busiest times of any store's life cycle," he said.

Ikea shoppers who spent a chunk of their day idling in backed-up streets and crowded parking lots sure hope that Roth is right.

"Traffic was just awful. It took 20 minutes from when we got off the BQE," said Jason Bell, who drove from Ditmars Park to browse.

Traffic was a main concern of Ikea opponents when the Swedish furniture giant was seeking approval to build its first New York City location. Unlike existing big box stores, which are typically built near highways, the Ikea sits on Beard Street near the corner of Richard Street at the far southern end of Red Hook. It is also far from subways. It is expected that the vast majority of its customers will drive there.

After critical change, city is sweet on Domino

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The city signed off on a new plan that would save the iconic Domino Sugar sign on the Williamsburg waterfront — and also pave the way for a glassy luxury addition atop the century-old sugar refinery building.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission greenlighted a redesign for the project on Tuesday, nearly four months after rejecting a previous version that excluded the sign and included unsightly bulkheads.

"The sign is back, the sign will live — we figured out how to do that," said architect Fred Bland of Beyer Blinder Belle.

"The sign will be on the building, as it always has been, not in a park on the water-front."

The approved plan would put the yellow sign in front of the scaled-back rooftop addition, which has receded from five-stories to four-stories on the building's northern half and three-stories on its southern half — a gesture intended to balance the refinery's silhouette with the prominent sloped sign.

The trip back the drawing boards proved beneficial for the architects, who heeded the city's calls to preserve the famous sign — which currently hangs on a building that will be torn down — and to create a more distinctive design for the rooftop addition to the refinery.



"I'm staggered at how fabulously this turned out," said Landmarks Commissioner Roberta Brandes Gratz.

"This is going to wind up being one of the crowning glories that will rival the Tate [Modern, an art museum in London] ... I'm glad we gave you a hard time about this."

Landmarks voted 7-1 in favor of proposal, moving Domino towards a final city land-use overview and a groundbreaking next fall.

But not everyone was sold on the new design.

"The direction that you are going in is moving towards the robust manufacturing

[look], but it's still too polite," said Commissioner Margerie Pelmetier lecturing Community Preservation Corporation Resources, the project's developer.

"It's kind of a genteel approach to industrial robustness."

The refinery building is actually three conjoined old sugar plants — and it's a small part of a proposed 11-acre redevelopment that includes two 30-story and two 40-story skyscrapers as well as smaller buildings.

The entire \$1.5-billion complex will comprise 2,200 apartments.

About 600 of them will be below market rates, including 100 affordable units set aside for residents making only \$25,000 a year.

Supremes sing the blues to Yards foes

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The Supreme Court announced on Monday that it would not take up the case of property owners who are slated to lose their land to make room for Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project. Residents say they will fight on in New York State's court system — which has traditionally not been sympathetic to property owners in eminent domain cases.

The Supreme Court denied without comment the 11 property owners' request that the High Court take up case, which has been rejected by two lower federal courts — though the court did disclose that Justice Samuel Alito, a known skeptic of eminent domain, voted to hear the case.

Plaintiffs, including Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn spokesman Daniel Goldstein, who owns

an apartment that is slated to be leveled, have argued that the state can not use its eminent domain power to transfer privately owned land to a private developer unless there is a clear public benefit.

Goldstein and his fellow petitioners claim that state officials agreed to condemn land for Ratner in a "sham" process that used the project's supposed public benefits as a "pretext" to justify, after the fact, handing

over privately held land to the developer.

"Our claims remain sound," said plaintiff's lawyer, Matthew Brinckerhoff. "New York State law and the state constitution prohibit the government from taking private homes and businesses simply because a potential developer demands it. Yet, that is what has happened ... We know that Ratner's project will cost the public much more than it will ever receive. Now we will turn to the state courts to vindicate our rights."

Brinckerhoff admitted that he had initially brought the case in federal courts because they have been more sympathetic, both on the merits of eminent domain

cases and on the plaintiffs' right to sue internal state documents, a process known as "discovery." (See editorial on page 14.)

"Admittedly, our right to discovery in state court is much more dubious," Brinckerhoff told The Brooklyn Paper. "But the same [state] court that we're petitioning [did agree to hear] a similar eminent domain case last year, so we're optimistic."

The Empire State Development Commission has argued that the project's promised public benefits — affordable housing, a basketball arena, seven acres of open space and the development of land that is mostly scarred by a rail yard — are real and not a pretext.

Economics have delayed Ratner's \$4-billion project. The developer has said that he is having trouble lining up financing to begin construction of the arena and one residential building next to it. The vast majority of the affordable housing and all of the open space is in Phase II of the project and opponents believe it will never get built.

Ratner insists that the entire project will get built within 20 years.

The Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, has affirmed the state's right to use eminent domain relating to Atlantic Yards. "We ratner said in a statement. "We believe, and the courts have repeatedly agreed, that Atlantic Yards provides significant public benefits including thousands of affordable homes and much needed jobs for Brooklyn."

Borough President Markowitz, one of the project's biggest boosters, was also gratified that 11 of his constituents were one step closer to being evicted to make room for Ratner's arena and condo development.

The U.S. Supreme Court has correctly and wisely chosen not to hear the appeal, thereby affirming the public benefits of the Atlantic Yards project for Brooklyn," he said in a statement.

"This is a major victory for the futures of Brooklyn and New York City."

What smell doesn't belong outside your home?

- ☐ roses
- ☐ fresh-cut grass
- ☒ rotten eggs
- ☐ burgers on the grill

Gas leaks can be detected if you know what to look for. Natural gas has a rotten egg smell added to it for quick detection. Another way to detect a gas leak is to look for bubbling puddles of standing water. These can come from natural gas pipelines leaking underground. And if you notice a hissing sound, that could be natural gas escaping from a pipeline.

If you notice any of these signs, move to a safe location and call us at 1-718-643-4050. Take action and don't assume someone else will report this condition.

Always call before you dig. Some pipeline locations are marked, but not all. The law requires excavators to contact the One Call Center so the location(s) of underground facilities can be marked. Call 1-800-272-4480 or the national number, 811.

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No doubt about it — rum helps pols make a splash

The Politicrasher

Would be City Councilwoman Jo Anne Simon kept her first promise of the long campaign: She promised a free mojito — and she delivered.

The place: Coco Roco on Smith Street. The time: Tuesday night. The event: A fundraiser for Simon's run to succeed Councilman David Vosky (D-Brooklyn Heights). The problem: Distinguishing yourself from at least five other declared candidates in an election that isn't even until 2009 for a district that sprawls from Greenpoint to Park Slope.

The solution: Mojitos!

The mint-and-greent event was particularly ironic, given Simon's strict drink status.

"Jo Anne is the cheapest date in Brooklyn," said her cheerleading spouse, Bill Harris, who enjoyed one of the rum-and-mint coolers as he worked the room (mostly, it must be said, talking about the

new traffic pattern at Tillary and Adams streets, not his wife's candidacy — but it's early yet!).

In her formal remarks, Simon, a local district leader, toasted her hard work on the campaign (more on that when it's time to start covering the race for real — like in June, 2009). And in her informal remarks, she begged us not to print a picture of her husband holding a mojito.

OK, so we'll put it online!

Wherever there is a smoke-filled backroom or a smoke-free barroom, The Brooklyn Paper's Politicrasher will be there, bringing you the inside dope on our next generation of leaders. Got a hot tip for the Politicrasher? E-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.

Hampton Jitney is Back in Brooklyn!

Service to the Hamptons & Long Island's East End Resumes March 21st

MONTAUK LINE		NORTH		SOUTH		Fridays	
Line	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM	PM
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The little dance in the big show: A bizarre sequence in the Cyclones' game against the Staten Island Yankees last Thursday featured a switch-hitter batting against baseball's only switch-pitcher. First, batter Ralph Henriquez switched sides when he saw pitcher Pat Venditte preparing to throw with his left arm. Then, Venditte moved his six-fingered glove to his left hand, so he could hurl with his right. This went on for a while.

ME of the STORM

The world's best Cyclones coverage

Lefty-righty, righty-lefty square off at Keyspan Park

By Ed Shakespeare
The Brooklyn Paper

It was the baseball equivalent of the perfect storm, the precise combination of factors that led to an at-bat that could have stretched to infinity.

Fortunately, the umpires stepped in, curtailing a lengthy "pas de don't" between an ambidextrous Staten Island Yankee pitcher (yes, really) and a switch-hitting Cyclone.

Here's what happened: On Thursday night, June 19, at Keyspan Park, the visiting archival Yankees led 7-2.

Heading to the mound to pitch the ninth for the Baby Bombers, switch-pitching reliever Pat Venditte was about to make his professional debut.

Venditte has been throwing with both hands since he was 3, and he has a special six-fingered glove that can be worn on either hand.

The first two Cyclones' hitters of the inning were right-handed batters, so Venditte pitched right-handed against them. He induced both Zach Lutz and Luis Allen to ground out.

Venditte pitched righty to righty Nick Girarapito, but Girarapito singled to center, bringing up switch-hitter Ralph Henriquez.

And then, the fun began! Henriquez had been swinging left-handed in the on-deck circle, so Venditte switched his glove hand and was set to pitch left-handed to Henriquez. Not wanting the bad lefty/lefty matchup, Henriquez went back to hit from the right side. So Venditte switched his glove again, and Henriquez went back to hit left-handed.

Some fans were laughing, some were intrigued by the novel situation, and some fans were booing. Others didn't know what the heck was going on!

Home plate umpire Shaylor Smith called time and conferred with first base umpire Tim Eastman, but they were in a quandary.

The Major League Baseball rulebook does not address the situation of a switch-pitcher versus a switch-hitter, but the Professional Baseball Umpires Corporation (PBUC) does have a rule that states, "[I]n the rare occasion of a switch-pitcher facing a switch-batter, each can change positions once per at-bat."



Venditte, who pitched with both arms at Creighton University, seemed to know that rule. At several points in the back-and-forth, he held up one figure to indicate that each player gets one change — and his should be the last one.

The problem with the PBUC rule is that it does not address the question of who commits first, the batter or the pitcher. This is crucial, because if both the pitcher and batter are allowed to switch sides once per at-bat, then whoever goes first, after each player switches once, is stuck.

The plate umpire finally told Henriquez to pick a side and stay there, so Henriquez chose to bat right-handed and Venditte pitched right-handed to him.

Showing a good curve, Venditte went 1-2

on Henriquez and then struck him out swinging on another curve.

"It was wild, man; it was incredible that he can actually do that [pitch with both arms]," said Henriquez. "I wasn't trying to make a game of it. I was just trying to hit from the left side against the right, or the right side against the left."

"He had a really good curve," added Henriquez. "The other players said my face lit up when I saw his curve."

The next time Henriquez faces Venditte, the Cyclones' catcher will have an easier decision.

From now on," said Cyclones' spokesman Dave Campanaro, "the minor league rule will be that the batter has to decide on a side first, and both the batter and pitcher will be allowed to switch once per at-bat, so the switch-pitcher will get the advantage because the batter will have to commit first."

Since the Cyclones will play 11 more regular season games against Staten Island, Brooklyn fans can look forward to seeing Venditte pitch with both hands, but with a lot less dancing from any switch-hitter in the batter's box.

Mixed week for Clones

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

You win some, you lose some — and in this up and down week, the Cyclones lost five and won only two, bringing their record to a mediocre 4-5.

Yankees 7 Cyclones 2

June 19, at Keyspan Park

Two out of three ain't bad! The Cyclones got on the board first against the hated Baby Bombers, thanks to a wild pitch.

Matt Bouchard did hit an RBI double in the eighth to bring the Cyclones within five, but that would be the end of the scoring.

Cyclones 3 Ironbirds 2

June 20 at Aberdeen

A classic come-from-behind win: Down 2-0, the Cyclones turned it on in the seventh on an Eric Campbell double and a John Servidio homer.

In the next frame, Matt Bouchard singled, then stole second. He later scored on Zach Lutz's RBI single. Yuri Santana got the save with a two-strikeout ninth.

Ironbirds 3 Cyclones 1

June 21 at Aberdeen

High draft pick Brad Holt was mediocre, allowing a double and a walk in the third before reliever Roy Merritt threw gasoline on the fire, serving



Kirk Nieuwenhuis is out trying to steal second in the Cyclones' 3-2 loss to the Renegades on Monday night.

up a bases-clearing double. The Clones' only run came in the seventh on a double by John Servidio and a passed ball and error.

Cyclones 4 Ironbirds 2

June 22 at Aberdeen (10 innings)

Hot hitters Ralph Henriquez (4-for-5) and John Servidio (2-for-4) led the hitting, but it was Will Vogl's ninth-inning homer that sent the game into extra frames — where a Jeffries Tarford single and a

John Servidio homer. In the next frame, Matt Bouchard singled, then stole second. He later scored on Zach Lutz's RBI single. Yuri Santana got the save with a two-strikeout ninth.

Renegades 1 Cyclones 0

June 23 at Hudson Valley (12)

The Renegades finally got to Cyclone hurlers in the 12th, when Wendy Rosa, who had tossed nothing but zeroes for two innings, put two men on with a hit and a walk. Jimmy Johnson came on in relief and gave up an RBI single. Red

John Servidio was the lone bright spot for the Clones, getting two of the team's six hits. The win capped a three-game sweep for the pesky Renegades and dropped the Cyclones to 4-5.

Cyclones 3 Renegades 2

June 24 at Hudson Valley

This one was dull. Sure, the Cyclones got on the board first, thanks to a stand-up triple by Brandon Richey and a ground-out by Matt Bouchard. But the



Bard to you: Who's on 1st

A befuddled Lou Costello asked Bud Abbott, "Who's on first?" in their famous comedy routine of the same name, first performed in the 1930s.

Numerous versions of the sketch are preserved on film and audio tape, but Abbott's answers to Costello's questions about the strange names in that baseball line-up have remained the same for 70 years.

But things are very different with the names in a Short Season Class-A baseball lineup. Most players are new, so to present this year's line-up, here's our annual "Who's On First?" column.

WHO IS ON FIRST?: The key question here is, "Who's not on first?" And the answer is **Ike Davis**. The Mets' first-round draft pick this year, and eighth in the draft overall, the Arizona State slugger has finally signed a contract. He was a 2008 Collegiate Baseball first team All-American, with a batting average of .385, and 16 homers and 76 RBI.

Davis, the son of former New York Yankee reliever **Ron Davis**, is on his way to Brooklyn, where he will start as a DH and then take over at first. Meanwhile, Cyclone returnee **Jeffries Tarford** has been holding the fort.

WHAT'S ON SECOND?: **Josh Satin**. Satin started the season 0-for-15, but don't worry, he'll hit. At Cal-Berkeley, he had a school record 27-game hitting streak, and hit .379 with 18 homers this year, and was named a 2008 second team All-American by *Rivals.com*. He's listed at 6-foot-2, but is even taller, so he's one big second baseman, and he makes up part of a hard-hitting infield.

I DON'T KNOW: Oh, but we do know who is on third base: **Zach Lutz** (right, top). He was the Opening Day third baseman last year, but broke his right foot in the game and missed the rest of the season. He's recovering nicely and has been ripping the ball so far, hitting .353 over the team's first seven games. He missed Tuesday's game nursing a minor strain, but Lutz says he'll be back soon.

I DON'T GIVE A DARN: Brooklyn fans do give a darn that a guy named Reese is playing shortstop for Brooklyn again, but it isn't **Pee Wee**, it's **Reese Havens**, the Mets' first-round pick, 22nd overall, in the 2008 draft. Manager **Edgar Alfonzo** says Havens "has good hands, and some pop in his bat." At the University of South Carolina, Havens showed that pop as he started in all 63 games and hit .359 with 13 doubles, two triples, and 18 homers. Just before Opening Day, Havens developed a sore elbow and hasn't played yet, though he isn't expected to be out for long.

Meanwhile, **Mont Bouchard**, who played for Brooklyn last year, has been covering until Havens's return.

WHY?: **Brandon Kaval**, (right, bottom) **Will Vogl** and **Michael Parker**. In the decade of the Brooklyn Dodgers' greatest success, from 1947 through 1956, Duke Snider was established in center and Carl Furuseth was in right — unchanged. But left field remained a revolving door — and remains that today. Kaval, a New York-Penn League All-Star with Brooklyn last year, has been sharing time with Vogl, who hit .240 for the Cyclones last year, and Parker, who played earlier this year at Savannah, the step above the Cyclones.

BECAUSE: **Kirk Nieuwenhuis** — because he hit .400 at Arizona Pacific University, that's why he's in center field. Nieuwenhuis (right, middle) earned NAIA All-American first team honors and combined his high average with 15 homers. He was the Mets' third round draft pick.

TODAY: **Cesar Cordoba** and **Ralph Henriquez**. So far, Cordoba and Henriquez have split the playing time behind the dish. Cordoba played well defensively, but was only 2-for-14 (.143) in his four games with the team. Henriquez, a switch-hitter who had a now famous at-bat against Yankee switch pitcher Pat Venditte, got hot after that appearance and is now 5-for-12 (.417).

RIGHT FIELD: **John Servidio**. Abbott and Costello never actually named a right fielder, but no matter — the Cyclones have one. Servidio hit .366 at Barry University, with 14 homers. He's hard-nosed, and hustles, so he's sure to be a favorite with Brooklyn fans.

TOMORROW: We'll tell you about the Cyclones' already-impressive pitching staff in our next issue.

CHANNELING THE BARD

Each week, Ed Shakespeare, the bard of Brooklyn baseball, will take a page from his ancient ancestor — yes, he's really related to Shakespeare! — and add a bit of iambic pentameter to all our lives. This week's contribution is called, "Only Fitting":

The place of Kings, the Borough had things bizarre, Of runners perched on third, the Dodgers — three At once, oh my! Babe Herman went so far As to be hit upon the noggin as he Was waiting for a fly, and did survive.

Some said he told a lie, "Twas the shoulder," Said Brooklyn's Babe. Last week, things came alive Against the Yankees. Venditte got bolder, And took up arms against a sea of troubles. Prepared he was to throw with either wing, Henriquez stepped to bat, a man who doubles As batter — left or right — the strangest thing. The two went back and forth, fans laughed at it, Such comic beauty: Brooklyn? Oh, it fit!

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 28, 2008

Cheap beer!

GO Brooklyn battles rising cost of living with a penny pincher's pub crawl guide

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

A night on the town never comes cheap. But if you're drinking Baladine Xyauya, you could bust your budget on just one drink.

At \$95 for 17 ounces, Baladine Xyauya is one expensive brew, available only at Beer Table (427 Seventh Ave. at 14th Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-1196). For the beer gourmet, though, the Italian barley wine might just be worth it.

"You're getting a truly handcrafted product instead of an industrial one," said Beer Table owner Justin Phillips. "It's something that's made by one man over two-and-a-half years. It's a totally different animal."

Not that every brew there will set you back a student loan payment. "That one's really far away in price from the others," said Phillips. "Currently, we have a \$5 Weinbacher Blanche. It's a daily list that rotates all the time."

The gourmet guzzler said he could even find drinkable ales at his corner bodega.

Since GO Brooklyn is slow in both putting down drinks and picking up tabs, we decided to eschew the high-class hooch and head in the opposite direction. Here's every penny-pinching beer sipper's must visit list:

Smith's

Grabbing a drink at this Park Slope mainstay, open since 1931, takes less quarters than doing your laundry. Here, a pint of Budweiser goes for \$1.75 — practically a Depression-era deal, as mixed drinks cost a very modern \$7.

Smith's has no happy hour specials, but with extra-long hours and the low price of its beer, it has become a tried-and-true bar for sleepers nonetheless. There's no mystery to it, according to manager Jerry O'Brien; he explained to GO Brooklyn in a deadpan voice that the bar's popularity was due to one thing: "We have the cheapest beer in town."

Smith's (440 Fifth Ave. at Ninth Street in Park Slope) accepts cash only. The bar is open Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 4 a.m., and Sundays, from noon to 4 a.m. For information, call (718) 788-9363.



The Levee

The closest thing that Williamsburg has to a club house, The Levee opened in 2005 — in the space that once housed the notorious Koke's Bar — and has been packed with locals playing pool, pinball and video games ever since.

It's not just the grown-up game room vibe that keeps people coming back; from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. daily, it's the \$1 cans of Carling Black Label lager. Considering the free cheese puffs that dot the bar and the \$4 "Sportsman Special," a can of Carling and a shot of Evan Williams whiskey, taking your dinner at The Levee seems downright economical.

Keep the change: (Top) Marisa Lucero, Sin Kim and Crispy Park enjoy the \$1 cans of Carling Black Label lager at Levee in Williamsburg; (middle) \$1.75 mugs of Budweiser attracted Joshua Iovine, Traci Malone, Jason Clarke, Nikki Iovine and Beth Maio to Park Slope's Smith's; and (bottom) Wojciech Lutinski (left) and Maria Mikolajczyk enjoyed \$1.50 mugs of Bud at Greenpoint's Palace Cafe.

The Levee (212 Berry St. at North Third Street in Williamsburg) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The bar is open daily, from noon to 4 a.m. For information, call (718) 218-8787 or visit www.thelevee.org.

Floyd

Brooklyn Heights isn't where most folks go to have a good time on a budget, but dropping into Floyd is a good way to start. The four-year-old bar, famous for its booze ball court and the locals who bring their dogs in for an afternoon drink, offers the "Crapacopia," a mixed-bag bucket of six domestic beers for the bargain price of \$12.

Paired with a deep-fried candy bar from the neighboring Chip Shop, there's no better way to start your night. If you're not ready to com-

mit to six, you can snag the day's special — a different can of beer is featured every day — for only \$2.

Floyd (131 Atlantic Ave. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The bar is open Monday through Friday, from 4:30 p.m. to 4 a.m., and weekends, from noon to 4 a.m. For information, call (718) 858-5810.

Habana Outpost

There's nothing more exciting about summer in Fort Greene than brownstones and Sweet Action. We're talking about beer, of course. At three-year-old summer hotspot Habana Outpost, both Brownstone Ale and Sweet Action ale — crafted by the borough's own Sixpoint Brewery — are available for \$2.50 a pint.

Considering that a frozen mojito runs \$8 — heck, even a smoothie is \$5 unless you blend it yourself — grabbing a table outside and knocking back the cheap suds is a fun and frugal way to enjoy a summer afternoon.

Habana Outpost (757 Fulton St. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene) accepts cash only. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Monday, from noon to midnight. Closed Tuesdays. For information, call (718) 858-9500 or visit www.ecoale.org.

Palace Cafe

The charm of the Palace Cafe, which sits on an unassuming corner across from Greenpoint's Monsignor McGolrick Park, is that, well, it doesn't have any. Known locally for the heavy metal music that pours out of the door at all hours, and a bartender who might close up for the night on a whim, the bar stays packed with adventurers and locals alike who appreciate the \$1.50 mug of Bud or, if you're a real high roller, the \$3 mug of Stella Artois.

The smart thing to do is hit the Palace in the evening, when the stained glass windows are still catching some sun, and enjoy some cheap drinks before venturing further into Greenpoint to enjoy some different, albeit more expensive, watering holes.

The Palace Cafe (206 Nassau Ave. at Russell Street in Greenpoint) accepts cash only. The bar opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday, and at noon on Sundays. For information, call (718) 383-9848.

— Additional reporting by Kate Ray

EVENT

Sky lights

Brooklyn is the perfect place to catch the nation's largest display — the 32nd annual "Macy's Fourth of July Fireworks" over the East River. This year, the show will feature a number of fireworks that float on the water.

"It's a really fun event for the family," said Macy's spokesman Orlando Veras. "It caps off the day with a bang, or actually, several thousand bangs."

The half-hour show, starting at 9:25 p.m., will launch over 35,000 fireworks from two locations, on the East River between 10th and 24th streets, and at South Street Seaport. Anywhere along Brooklyn's shores with a good view of the East River between Houston and 42nd streets — ideally, Williamsburg or Greenpoint — will be a great spot to watch fireworks.

For the South Street Seaport show, Macy's recommends watching from the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, or Furman Street, near Atlantic Avenue and Cadman Plaza West.

For information about viewing locations, call the Macy's fireworks hotline at (212) 494-4495. — Kate Ray

NIGHTLIFE

'Monkey' biz

Monkey Town, the Williamsburg restaurant and performing arts space, closed on June 23 for six weeks of renovations. Although it often seems that when a "closed for renovations" sign is posted on a window in Brooklyn, it's code for "we're out of business," Monkey Town's owner assures us that they'll be swinging from the branches again come Aug. 2.

The real reason it's happening is that our landlords are building three stories of residences above us," said club owner Montgomery Knott. "To do that, they have to get through that space, and they need to come through our front dining room."

To make up for the inconvenience and loss of 100 square feet to a stairwell for its new neighbors, the landlords are helping out with a redesigned facade for the club, soundproofing of the space and a new mural on one of the walls.

"We hoped it would turn out to be a good thing, and it mostly has," said Knott. "We have a few things planned for the grand reopening, but we want to finalize all of the details — it can't be a grand, shabby reopening."

Monkey Town (58 N. Third St. at Kent Avenue in Williamsburg) will be closed through Aug. 1. For information, call (718) 384-1369 or visit www.monkeytownhq.com.

— Adam Rathe

MUSIC

Get 'Hip-hop'

Beginning July 10, the Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival will pack a whole season's worth of programming into one long weekend.

Things will heat up with a concert by Crown Heights native Buckshot and Mecca the Ladybug from Digable Planets at the Masonic Temple in Fort Greene.

The following day, the powerHouse Arena in DUMBO will host an evening of emerging talent (and free beer!), but the main event is on Saturday, July 12: family-friendly music and events, followed by a 4 p.m. concert headlined by KRS-One (pictured). An after party at Southpaw will take the festival into the wee hours of the morning.

"The total package is stronger," Wes Jackson, the executive director of the festival. "Last year, we were driven by our headline. This year, we're more well-rounded and have a lot of developing acts. There's a mix of dynamics." The Brooklyn Hip-Hop Festival takes place July 10-12 at several locations. Tickets are \$10 and up. For a schedule, call (718) 354-8777 or visit www.brooklynboogies.com.

— Adam Rathe

HOT SUMMER NIGHTS!

FREE CONCERTS AT KINGSBOROUGH 2008
HOTLINE: 718-368-6680 / www.kingsborough.edu

AMERICAN ROOTS
PATRIOTIC POPS—July 5 at 8:30 p.m.
JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE & SING ALONG—July 5 at 7:30 p.m.
LOUISIANA ZYDECO & KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS—July 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Special VIP seats & goody bags for Cash & Zydeco concerts: \$10. Call 718.368.5596

SWING UNDER THE STARS
DANCE TO LIVE SWING BAND—July 15 at 8:00 p.m.

GLOBAL RHYTHMS
PRESENTS ACCORDION DREAMS
BALKAN & MEXICAN ROCK—July 19 at 7:30 p.m.
BRAZILIAN & EAST AFRICAN GROOVES—July 26 at 7:30 p.m.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS: NO TICKETS OR RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.
CALL FOR A BROCHURE, FREE PARKING! OR TAKE THE B1 OR B49 BUS TO THE LAST STOP.

KINGSBOROUGH IS NY

Best Summer Nightlife is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional support is provided by the following sponsors: The City of Kingsborough, the City of Queens, the City of Richmond, the City of Westchester, the City of Albany, the City of Rensselaer, the City of Saratoga County, the City of Schenectady County, the City of Dutchess County, the City of Sullivan County, the City of Ulster County, the City of Warren County, the City of Hamilton County, the City of Columbia County, the City of Schoharie County, the City of Otsego County, the City of Madison County, the City of Delaware County, the City of Yates County, the City of Oneida County, the City of Hamilton County, the City of Warren County, the City of Columbia County, the City of Schoharie County, the City of Otsego County, the City of Madison County, the City of Delaware County, the City of Yates County, the City of Oneida County, the City of Hamilton County, the City of Warren County, the City of Columbia County, the City of Schoharie County, the City of Otsego County, the City of 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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
June 28

'Suit' up

East Williamsburger
Jeremy Leichman competed with thousands to win a grant and three-month residency at 3rd Ward, and today a show of his sculptures, "Suits," including "Collared" (pictured), opens. It directs a critical eye at the way we dress for work—like a much hipper, 3-D version of a "Dilbert" cartoon.

SUNDAY
June 29

On 'Record'

Long before CDs were retro, vinyl was the chic, outdated medium to buy music on. Today at Warsaw in Greenpoint, you can sift through thousands of records, CDs, videos and DVDs at the first-ever "Brooklyn Record Hunt." Whether you're hunting for a Misfits LP or "Miss Congeniality" on VHS, this is your one-stop shop.

SUNDAY
July 1

'Innocent' fans

Even "uptown girls" will be in Bay Ridge tonight to see Big Shot, a Billy Joel tribute band playing state Sen. Marty Golden's concert series. It might seem "shameless" to put on a cover band instead of the "piano man" himself, but we're "keeping the faith" that "sometimes a fantasy" is even better.

FRIDAY
July 4

Go Fourth!

Whether you're checking out the fireworks—see page 7 to find out about displays in the borough—or spending time with pals—check out page 12 for Toby Maloney's Fourth of July drink recipe—Independence Day is more than just sparklers and the three-day weekend—it's about America, damn it.

SUNDAY
July 6

Oh, 'Baby'

Ronnie Spector shot to stardom in the 1960s as the lead singer for The Ronettes and wife of infamous music producer Phil Spector. These days, she's still putting out records but has severed ties with her ex. Today, the rock legend will perform hits like "Be My Baby" at the McCaren Park Pool.

SIXTEEN DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JUNE 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIRDING: 8 a.m. Salt Marsh Center, 3302 Avenue U. For more information call 311 and ask for the Urban Park Rangers. Free.
OPEN PADDLE: 9 a.m. to noon. Pier 26 Boat Basin, foot of Avenue N. (718) 261-3663. Free. www.seabagcanoeclub.org
TREE-MENDOUS WALK: Urban Park Rangers offer a guided tour of Prospect Park. Learn how to identify trees by bark and leaves. 1 p.m. Meet at Audubon Center, enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8951. Free.
SAILING CLINIC: Sail.com members only. \$105. reservations required. E-mail sailing@seabagcanoeclub.org.

PERFORMANCE

CEMETERY PLAY: Quaker Cemetery in Prospect Park hosts a play about the people buried there. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Prospect Park Southwest and 10th Street, south of the Long Meadow. Free.
THE YARD: presents indie performers Benevento and Russo Duo. \$20. 4 p.m. 388-400 Carroll St. (718) 977-1701.
THE BRICK: presents "A Paranoid's Guide to History." Content ranges from current events to history. 3:30 p.m. 775 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-6189.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: presents Brooklyn hip-hop with Crooklyn Dodgers Reunion with O.C. Jew the DJ, DJ Premier and others. \$3 suggested donation. 7 p.m. Prospect Park band shell, Prospect Park West at Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999.

BARGE MUSIC: Classical music program of works by Mozart, Brahms and Shostakovich. 5:35 p.m. 4th Ave. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Pier at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

ROOFTOP FILM: "Neo Noir" a film about the aftermath of the SARS outbreak in Beijing, and how the film depicts a desperate group of ex-patriots banded together in a Neo-Lounge nightclub. \$9. 8 p.m. Old Amerasia Inn Factory, 232 Third St. www.rooftopfilms.com

RYAN REPERTORY: presents "Kong," a new performance work. \$20, \$18 seats. 8 p.m. Harry Warner Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "W Warszawa," a theater company from Poland, presents "Macbeth." Production features a two-story set, video walls, and special effects. \$35 and up. 9 p.m. Tobacco Warehouse, Empire Fulton Ferry State Park, 26 Dock St. (718) 254-8779.

OTHER

INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE: Brooklyn's 103rd annual parade sponsored by the Long Island Assembly of Knights of Columbus. Noon. Parade route follows 13th Avenue from 66th Street to 86th Street. (718) 633-4928.

FLEA MARKET: at Church of the Holy Spirit. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 8117 Bay Pkwy. (718) 837-0412.

SAT, JUNE 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

Holy 'Cow': On Friday, July 4, the "Afro-Punk Film Festival" at BAMcinemate will feature "The Federation of Black Cowboys," director Eric Martz's 2003 documentary about the inhabitants of a 26-acre Howard Beach farm and the way they keep the cowboy lifestyle alive right here in Brooklyn.

ARTISAN MARKET: hosted by Fort Greene Park Conservatory. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fort Greene Park, Dekalb Avenue sidewalk perimeter. (718) 855-8175.
INDIE MARKET: offers handmade items. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Smith Street between Union and President streets. (347) 407-1187.

HERITORY ARCHIVES: Open house and tours. Noon to 4 p.m. 484 14th St. (718) 768-3953 or www.lesbianherstory.org

PANEL DISCUSSION: Corridor Gallery hosts a talk moderated by Danny Strydom and Tobi Kweil. 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. 334 Grand Ave. (718) 230-5002. Free.

CURATOR'S TALK: Kentler International Drawing Space presents Charlotte Kotik in a talk "The Persistence of Line: Selections from the Kentler Flatfiles." 4 p.m. Reception from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 975-2095. Free.

BASEBALL GAME: Brooklyn Cyclones play the Renegades. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. 449-8497.

SPRING SHOW: 3rd Ward presents "Suits," a sculptural exhibit by Jeremy Leichman. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. 195 Morgan Ave. (718) 715-4861. Free.

SUN, JUNE 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

TROLLEY TOUR: Learn about Brooklyn's Revolutionary War History, with stops at the Old Stone House, Fort Greene Park, the Mayland 400 Monument and the Ferry Crossing. 11 a.m. Meet at the Old Stone House in J.B. Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (718) 421-2021. Free.

CANOE THE LULLWATER: Urban Park Rangers take a canoe trip. Arrive early. First come first served. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sign-up starts at 10:30 a.m.

CIVIC CALENDAR

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Sunset swimming with the Boerum Hill Association. Douglas Street between Third Avenue and Nevins Street in Boerum Hill, 5 p.m. Call (718) 928-2425 for info.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corp. On the agenda: construction update. Polytechnic University (a MetroTech Center), Jay Street, between Myrtle Promenade and Tech Place in Downtown, 6 p.m. Call (212) 803-3822 for info.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com

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Vintage victuals

Park Slope chef demonstrates the art and hardship of preparing 19th-century fare

By Kate Ray
for The Brooklyn Paper

For Carolina Capehart, slow cooking isn't about basting a chicken in fat and leaving it in the Crockpot all day — it's about plucking that bird, churning that butter, and roasting the whole thing herself over an open fire.

At the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum in East Flatbush this summer, Capehart will teach visitors to cook early 19th-century style, along with offering a new perspective on what's on their plate.

"I want to give people a sense of history, where we come from food-wise," she told GO Brooklyn.

Capehart, who is hosting her second year of free "Fireside Feasts" at the museum, has delved into the manuscript cookbooks of Catharine M. Kapelye-Wyckoff, who lived in the Wyckoff Farmhouse in the mid-1800s, to find recipes for this summer's cooking classes. Among the 19th-century delicacies to be covered are "Dodgers 'n' Johnny Cakes" (two types of corn bread, but the "dodgers" made with milk and eggs, "have more in 'em," explained Capehart) — and boiled puddings.

Clothed in a 19th-century dress, apron and bonnet, this Park Sloper works over an open fire in the farmhouse's backyard. Capehart invites audience participation, showing kids how to churn butter or their parents how to grind peppercorns with mortar and pestle, but she also wants her guests to understand what that food meant to the people who used to cook that way.

At that time, Brooklyn was an expanse of rural farmlands, separated functionally and culturally from urban Manhattan just across the river. In the 1830s, said Capehart, "the vibe was different between the farm communities of Brooklyn and the urban area of New York. They didn't often mingle." In Kings County, "food was a driving force for people." Women began cooking the family's midday meal as soon as they got up in the morning, a far cry from today's five-minute microwave dinners, but "you had no other way to get any food."

But as Brooklyn acquired the gro-



DINING

Carolina Capehart hosts "Fireside Feasts: Dodgers 'n' Johnny Cakes" on July 10 at 5 pm at the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum (5916 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush). Free. The "Feasts" continue with "A Pudding or Two" on July 31; "Garden Goodies" on Aug. 7; and "Gone Fishin'" on Aug. 21. For information, call (718) 629-5400 or visit www.wyckoffassociation.org.

Taste of history: Carolina Capehart who will teach classes in 19th-century cooking at the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum in East Flatbush this summer, inspects the produce at the Grand Army Plaza farmers market.

cers and markets of Manhattan during the Industrial Revolution, cooking became easier and less involved. Today, Capehart said, we don't even think about what we're eating or where it came from.

"Food comes from somewhere," Capehart said. "You have to have farms somewhere; there have to be cattle and chickens in order for you to go to McDonald's and have your hamburger."

Historical accuracy

Capehart is from Indianapolis, so she didn't exactly grow up next to a silo, although she used to visit her grandfather's farm as a child. She got her first taste of 1836 life working as an actor at

a living history museum in Indiana. Capehart moved to New York to pursue her acting career, but when that

A recipe from 1831

Indian Cakes, or pone

1 quart milk
3 large eggs
1 cup corn meal, add more as needed
1 tsp pearlash or baking soda

"For making Indian Cakes, to one quart of milk, add three eggs. Beat them well, then add as much meal as

went the way of the washboard, she applied for a job at Lefferts Historic House in Prospect Park, whose time period coincided almost exactly with her past experience.

She began historical cooking demonstrations at Lefferts, but soon became frustrated with the museum's disregard for the historical accuracy of their equipment.

"I don't like using things that aren't correct for the time period. If you're trying to churn butter in an 1860s butter-churn, it's not going to be the same. I didn't appreciate that," she said.

Last year, Capehart began teaching cooking at the Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, where she has almost complete control over her recipes, equipment and ingredients.

In the past few years, Capehart's work has become "a passion" for her. When she isn't experimenting with new recipes over her stove at home, she's reading books about 19th-century food, sharing tips with the "network of heartwarming cooks" that she's discovered in New York, or traveling to other museums to take more 1800s cooking classes.

"My class is only two hours. Other hearty cooking classes are from 10 [am] to 4 [pm]. I'd like to do that some day," she said, a little wistfully.

Easy living

But even though her work absorbs her, Capehart doesn't bring her skills to her own dining room table.

At home, "my microwave and my toaster oven are my two best friends," she said.

And although she supports the idea of the slow food movement, Capehart rarely goes to the farmers market herself.

"I'm not a huge vegetable eater," admitted the host of the Aug. 7 "Garden Goodies" demonstration. Mostly, she's just enchanted by food in the 1800s, by "how things are different and how they are the same."

"All of these little things they took for granted, like using a birch twig whisk to make whipped cream, I find fascinating," Capehart said.

When visitors come to her cooking classes, she wants them to have fun and to learn about Brooklyn — a very long time ago. And at the end of the class, she wants them to get a taste of those vintage victuals.

"There's a unique flavor to food cooked over an open fire, that's different from everything else," Capehart said. "There's nothing like it."

will make a batter of the same consistency as is used for buckwheat cakes. Pour it into a bake-kettle and bake as for other cakes. When sour milk can be had it is to be preferred, into which put some 'pearlash' as for making biscuit. ['Pearlash,' or potassium bicarbonate, is a leavening agent that was made from weed ashes. — CC]

"When cakes are made according to the above directions, most people prefer them to wheat bread, and no doubt they are more healthy. They should be eaten warm, and with a cup of coffee make an excellent breakfast. In addition to all other recommendations they are economical."

— "The Genesee Farmer," Rochester, New York, 1831, adapted by Carolina Capehart

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It's not as much fun to be fancy.
So Brooklyn is taking on Manhattan's annual Food Show — June 29 through July 1 at the Jacob Javits Center — with its rival **UnFancy Food Show**, to be held Sunday, at the East River Bar (97 S. Sixth St. at Berry Street, (718) 302-0511) in Williamsburg.

"The UnFancy Food Show" was created last year by food industry veterans Sasha Davies of Cheese by Hand blog and Tom Mylan (butcher at Diner and Marlow & Sons), who were upset by the pricey goods and lack of local, independent companies at the "fancy" show across the river. Their unfancy show will be different in a few key ways: It will be cheap (there's a \$5 suggested donation to attend as opposed to \$35 at the Javits). It will feature about 20 smaller and more local food producers. And there will be \$3 pints of beer!

Organizers expect this year's show to have more food to taste than its first effort — from **Hot Bread Kitchen**, helmed by Boerum Hill's Jessamyn Waldman, **Salvatore** Brooklyn's fresh ciavetta, Williamsburg's own **Mast Brothers Chocolate** and others — and more things to do, like get your copy of "The Shameless Carnivore" signed by author **Scott Gold**.

The second annual "UnFancy Food Show" will be held

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'Girls' wanna rock

Brooklyn's new queens of noise — The Vivian Girls — are popping up all over

By Sarah McCormick
for The Brooklyn Paper

Of all the noises made by patrons after a trip to Acapulco Deli & Restaurant — a bare-bones Mexican restaurant in Greenpoint — those of the Vivian Girls were surely the least expected.

It was in 2007 at the Manhattan Avenue eatery when guitarist Cassie Ramone met up with drummer Frankie Rose and, like rice and beans, an inspired collaboration was born.

"I wrote my number on a tortilla chip and gave it to Frankie," Ramone told GO Brooklyn from a tour van speeding through Kansas, "and two weeks later, we had our first practice."

Rehearsing in Rose's Greenpoint apartment — nicknamed "The Orphanage" — and using a practice amplifier and the microphone on a laptop, the girls recruited Ramone's high school friend, "Kickball" Katz (all band members insisted on going by their stage names) to sing and play bass, and the Vivian Girls were born.

Named after an illustrated book by deceased outsider artist Henry Darger, the group channels the sound of The B-52s, My Bloody Valentine and cult British rock band Dolly Mixture — shiny, poppy rock gems — but has also secured itself a spot in the borough's punk elite, playing alongside bands like Fiasco! and F—ked Up in lofts and basements from Bushwick to Red-Stuy.

On Saturday, June 28, the band will play at Market Hotel in Bushwick with Trachtenberg Family Slideshow Players and Belaire.

"Katy told me about them when they were first starting up," said Matthew Molnar, who runs the Bushwick-based record label Plays With Dolls. "I didn't listen to [their demo] right away, but when I did go see them on a whim, I was just completely floored. I was



Brooklyn Dargers: Named for work by outsider artist Henry Darger, the Vivian Girls are on the inside track to rock stardom.

just getting my first releases together; money was tight, but I knew I needed to do a record with them."

And he did. Last winter, he released the band's "Wild Eyes" single

— over 1,000 copies sold in the first two months it was out — which gave the band a chance to get their sound heard. It worked: just a few months later, the band released a self-titled

album on Greenpoint's Mauled By Tigers records, and the vinyl pressing (a CD-version of the record is slated for release in the fall) has already sold out. In fact, L-train rumor has it that the band has already been tapped by a major label.

"That's actually totally not true," insisted Rose. "I just have a friend that works at Matador... and somehow we started talking. We've been lucky enough to have a mentor over there, but it's mostly just for advice. We're such a new band that that would be kind of crazy, but maybe someday."

For now, the girls are concentrating on other tasks. Katy is finishing a master's degree, Ramone is just out of college and Rose — when the band isn't on the road — spends her days working at a coffee shop. At the moment, the band doesn't even have a steady practice space; they're renting rooms hourly and sneaking in rehearsals where they can.

We use art studios," lamented Rose. "It's not the most awesome, but someday we'll have a solid space."

In the meantime, the band has another single — "Tell the World" — which came out last week, and they have started working on a second full-length. Otherwise, like most other 20-something Brooklynites, they're

looking forward to enjoying the summer at haunts like Daddy's, a bar in Williamsburg, or the McCarran Park Pool.

"I like sitting on the lawn in the summer and watching people with crazy outfits walk by," said Ramone. "Either that or I hang out on Kent Avenue and look out at the East River."

With a national tour under their belts, a slew of hometown shows on the horizon and records flying off the shelves, perhaps it's time the Vivian Girls got used to people watching them instead.

MUSIC

The Vivian Girls will play at 8 pm on June 28 at Market Hotel, 1142 Myrtle Ave. at Broadway in Bushwick. Ticket price: \$10. For more information, visit www.viviangirls.net.

The algo-rhythm

The Vivian Girls don't sound like other bands keeping neighbors awake with midnight rock shows in Bushwick basements. They shimmer a bit more, they pop a bit more, they... can only be described through the musical-mathematical science that goes into The Algo-rhythm.

— Adam Rathe

Take the lazy, wall-of-sound walling of **My Bloody Valentine's** second album, 1993's "Loveless," and add a pinch of...
the sassy surf-rock that made the B-52s self-titled 1979 debut — featuring songs like "Rock Lobster" — a classic. Mix well and you'll get...

the fuzzed-out pop of "Last Splash," the 1993 record that put The Breeders on the map. Shake well and you'll get...

The Vivian Girls' self-titled record.

BREAKING CHEWS

By Adam Rathe and Kate Ray
The Brooklyn Paper

Manhattan resident **Sunny Anderson** will debut her new Food Network show, "How'd That Get On My Plate?" on Monday, July 7.

Each episode will follow the path of one ingredient from its raw state to a final product, with Anderson — who already hosts "Cooking For Real" on the same channel — traveling around the country to see just where her food is coming from.

"I love doing my research, so this will be a great show for me. It's all about finding out where the products and the foods we eat every day start off," said Anderson.

And what does she eat every day when she's home in Brooklyn?

"I love **Cafe K** on Avenue K and Coney Island Avenue. I also love **DiFara's** pizza and **Kosher Delight**, even though I don't keep kosher."

Anderson doesn't have plans to feature foods native to the borough on her new show just yet, but as far as ingredients from Brooklyn go, we think the lady herself is a pretty sweet find.



Sun-screen: Caterer turned Food Network star Sunny Anderson is set to host a travel show — about ingredients. "How'd That Get On My Plate?" premieres July 7.

from noon to 6 pm on June 29. For more information, visit www.unfancyfoodshow08.tumblr.com.

We've heard the importance of using local produce in your kitchen — resulting in fresher food delivered with less fuel — but this weekend, the **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** will help us take it one step further, teaching us how to grow — and use — the ingredients.

On Saturday at 2 p.m., garden instructor Leda Meredith leads "Beyond Oregano: Expand Your Herbal Palette in the Garden and Kitchen," a class in cultivating and cooking with our very own herbs.

Attendees will learn how to harvest and use "za'atar" (a mixture of spices com-

mon in Middle Eastern food), wild ginger, "monarda" (an oregano-like plant often used for seasoning game), orange thyme, chocolate mint and golden marjoram — not exactly staples of the everyday spice rack.

To register for the June 28 class, which costs \$39, call (718) 623-7220.

If fireworks aren't exciting enough for your Independence Day, stop by **Cafe on Clinton** [268 Clinton St. at Warren Street in Cobble Hill] for the July Fourth "Pig Feast."

From 11 am to 11 pm, the restaurant will be dishing out unlimited pig and half-price drinks all day for a \$12 cover charge.

Folks can return to the restaurant after watching the

fireworks displays in Brooklyn Heights, when the price of beer will drop to \$1.

If IKEA wasn't enough, come July, Red Hook will be invaded by more boxes — pizza boxes from **Anselmo's**. With two brick ovens, the shop — which will open at 351 Van Brunt St. at Wolkoff Street — will dish out classic pies as well as soups, salads, panini sandwiches and desserts.

Namesake owner Anselmo Garcia said, "I want to use fresh stuff, nothing from the can; fresh tomatoes, fresh herbs and to make all the bread. I'm excited because I know I've got a lot of stuff to show the people."

Earlier this month, DUMBO joined Park Slope, Fort Greene, Carroll Gardens, Borough Park, Downtown Brooklyn, Sunset Park, Flatbush and Williamsburg by getting its very own **farmer's market**.

From now until Nov. 23, the market will operate every Sunday near the intersection of Main and Plymouth streets, from 11 am to 5 pm.

"We had a very good turnout for our first week," said organizer Miriam Haus — "was busy in spite of the hour of rain that left us standing in water. The farmers and the

vendors were very pleased, and I think it's going to be a very good market."

And while a weekly market certainly doesn't take the place of a supermarket, thanks to the weekly bazaar — sponsored by the DUMBO Business Improvement District — locals can scoop up produce, pickles, nuts, bread, pastries, meat, honey, maple syrup and more.

In the coming weeks, the market will add fresh fish as well as cooking demonstrations featuring ingredients that are on the stands that very day.

Over at **Studio B**, a Greenpoint nightclub, there's finally something better than the late-night dance parties: the rooftop barbecue. Starting last week, the club is throwing a monthly barbecue party featuring DJs, drink specials and a rotating cast of guest chefs — **Avery Witkamp** (Marlow Park), **Lesley Stockton** (Dram Shop) and **Heather Meldrom** (ex-Crafts) are already lined up — dishing out 54 plates of gourmet grub.

"We wanted to offer something to the community," said Justine Delaney, the club's events director. "Sometimes, there's going to be free barbecue. It's just a nice option, the neighborhood to sit on a nice comfortable rooftop and have good food and good music."

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Brooklyn Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman got up-close and personal with Ayveq after the birth of his son, Akituasq.

Ayveq the Walrus, Aquarium fixture, dead at 14

By Gersh Kuntzman

Ayveq, the walrus whose bizarre, though oddly compelling, misanthropic nature made him an international sensation at the New York Aquarium, has died. He was 14.

Though well-liked long before he discovered the habit that would make him a star, Ayveq's frequent public self-gratification made him the Coney Island institution's singular attraction. "We are all still in shock about it," Aquarium Director Jon Forrest Dohlin said. "He was an absolute delight. He had a magnetism and a charm that was totally his own. He loved people and he knew how to work a crowd and entertain guests — and himself. He did have a raffish charm, no doubt about it."

The Aquarium said workers discovered that Ayveq was ailing on Sunday, June 15.

"On Saturday night, he was perfectly — no problems at all," said Dohlin, "but the next morning, we could see that he was not well."

Within one week, he was dead, most likely of a "massive" bacterial infection, Dohlin said.

"We tried everything, but it progressed so rapidly," he said.

The exact cause of death will not be known until an autopsy. A small memorial was held for Aquarium staffers on Monday. Ayveq's body was then taken to the Bronx Zoo for cremation.

The beloved walrus moved to the Aquarium from his native Alaska in 1994, shortly after he and two brothers were orphaned. His name, courtesy of his not-so-pretty passion, "He began using all four fins, up and down [and] laughter spread out through the crowd," the witness said.

"Only in Coney Island," he said.

The death of Ayveq comes almost exactly a year after the birth of his only (known) son, Akituasq, whom he nursed with the female walrus after years of unrequited courting.

In lieu of herding, the Aquarium is recommending that Ayveq fans make a donation to the facility's "Animal Enrichment Fund," which buys toys for the residents. Tax-deductible donations can be made by visiting <http://www.wcs.org/getinvolved/donations/57423donate>.

The Brooklyn Paper

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

PARENT

It's the end for Smartmom at PS 21

Smartmom's days are numbered at PS 21. After 11 years as a very involved parent at this illustrious school, she's about to say adieu.

Sure, 11 years is a long time to be in elementary school and Smartmom is good and ready to graduate.

Sort of.

But it's a big deal, a major transition and, truth be told, Smartmom is feeling very shaky about the whole thing.

Transitions. They are an essential part of the big shebang, integral to the process of growth and moving on. You can't live with 'em or live without 'em.

Smartmom can still remember the transition from Teen Spirit's private kindergarten to first grade at PS 321. This was back in 1997, the olden days before Elizabeth Phillips was principal.

On the first day of school, Hepcat, Teen Spirit and Smartmom — y'all's-month-old OSFO in the Baby BORN — walked nervously to that first-grade classroom carrying a huge shopping bag full of paper towels, hand soap, Kleenex and crayons (as requested by the school).

Smartmom worried that Teen Spirit might feel overwhelmed by the raucous public school atmosphere. But it was Smartmom who felt overwhelmed.

Walking out on Seventh Avenue, Smartmom felt pangs of anxiety. What would Teen Spirit make of this new school? Hadn't he grown used to the precious, child-centered pedagogy and specialized wooden toys of a local Montessori school?

His transition wasn't seamless. Transitions never are. But by Halloween, Teen Spirit had settled into life as a public school first-grader. And Smartmom adjusted, too.

Soon she realized how lucky



By Louise Crawford

recreated herself as a grunge-goth-punk-rock-grrrl. And again, Teen Spirit went to a high school in Bay Ridge, which was too far away for lunchtime spying. And after two years, he switched to an even better high school in Manhattan.

Both parents knew to keep their distance, but Smartmom's affinity for the school motivated her to volunteer as an advisory parent, which is something like a class parent (a term that would surely mortify any high school kid).

Smartmom kept her affiliation on the down low (she's not sure if Teen Spirit ever found out). Secretly, she attended PTA meetings and got to know the school and a few other parents on her own. Naturally, Teen Spirit avoided her when he saw her in the hallway. And she acted like a perfect stranger.

So, it's transition time again. OSFO finally found out that she will attend New Voices middle school on 18th Street near Seventh Avenue. She will take the Seventh Avenue bus to school and get to know a new group of teachers and friends (and parents). Smartmom hopes she likes the parents.

OSFO hasn't lost any sleep over it. She's excited about going to middle school and doesn't seem nervous about riding the B or navigating a brand new social scene.

Naturally, it's Smartmom who's having the hard time. Will OSFO feel comfortable up there? Will she make new friends? Will she like her teachers? Will everything work out?

She's afraid to leave her wonderful school around the corner, a one-of-a-kind place with special community of friends and neighbors. It's been the heartbeat of her life for so many years now.

But now, it's time to let go. Louise Crawford also writes, "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn," a Web site.

never really figured out their way around the building or got to know many of the other parents. But they adjusted. Eventually. A few years later, it was transition time for her when he saw her in the hallway. And she acted like a perfect stranger.

Rain on 'Parade'

As a Brooklynite, I am certainly a fan of Melanie Hope Greenberg's whimsical, ultra-urban tyke tunes. The illustrations in her work — and I am specifically citing "A City Is..." for singular commendations here — are a delightful patchwork of cool funk, but pavement and the sweat of the summer-time brow.

How I wish her stories matched her inkwork.

She has the same problem in her latest effort, "Mermaids on Parade."

As always, she has perfectly chosen her subject — the annual parade of costumed Neptunes and sea nymphs along Coney Island's boardwalk.

But, once again, Greenberg's writing is stilted and unimaginative ("We line up. Shiny costumes sparkle and glitter. Marchers are each given a badge," reads one passage). Even a potentially dramatic moment — when her tiny narrator



By Thurston Dooley III



wins the award for "Best Little Mermaid" in the parade — falls flatter than a Coney Island whittener.

Thurston Dooley III has been reviewing puppetry, kids books, juggling and mime for three decades.

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FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay



Lloyd Miller of The Dee Dee Dees will perform on July 9 at Carroll Park in Carroll Gardens.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28
 11 am: Story time. Barnes and Noble (106 Court St., at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn). Free. Call (718) 264-4158 for info.
 11 am: "Daydream," a short version of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Imagination Playground (interior Prospect Park on Ocean Avenue between Lincoln Road and Parkside Avenue in Prospect Lefferts Gardens). Free. Call (718) 393-7753 for info.
 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 28.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
 11 am: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 28.
 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 28.
 3 pm: P.G. Arts presents "Daydream." See Saturday, June 28.

MONDAY, JUNE 30
 10 am-4 pm: Summer on the Green camp. Green Cottage (Prospect Park Parade Ground, corner of Calton and Coney Island avenues). Free. Program runs through August 15. Call (718) 965-8999 for info.
 2:30 pm: Art program. Science and Movement. Pierpont Playground and Pierpont Street, Brooklyn Heights). Free.
 3:30 pm: Creative movement. Pierpont Playground (end of Pierpont Street, Brooklyn Heights). Free.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9
 4 pm: Lloyd Miller (of the Deadliest Deed) performs for the same cast — as a Librarian. A Powers-Powers battle was averted when the Libertarian Party nominated someone else. Then, in one of his only public positions since becoming the presumptive candidate, he took the publicly unpopular position of fighting to retain the IEZ. Pass he and other MTA board members get.

FRIDAY, JULY 11
 10:30 am: Queen Nur's "Sweet Potato Pie" and "Sach" storytelling event. Brower Park (behind the Brooklyn Children's Museum at 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights). Free. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.
 11 am: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 28.
 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 28.
 2 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, June 28.

SUNDAY, JULY 13
 Noon-5 pm: Battle Day for kids. Brower Park (behind the Brooklyn Children's Museum at 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights). Free. Call (718) 735-4400 for info.
 3 pm: "Daydream." See Saturday, June 28.

CONEY...

Continued from page 1
 of the Coney Island Circus Sideshow who recently resigned from the city's Coney planning board in protest, donned three different colored hats — red, gray and black — to symbolize his different roles as neighborhood artist, former board member of the Coney Island Development Corporation, and advocate for the amusement industry.

"To call this plan the 'world's playground' is George Orwell doublespeak," said Zigun. Zigun wants the city to return to its original plan, which had more rides and less room for enclosed attractions and entertainment retail.

Anti-consumerism preacher (and activist) Rev. Billy followed Zigun with a fire-and-brimstone sermon.

"Firekaillajah!" he screamed repeatedly.

Next up, was guitar-strumming Amos Wenger, the one-eyed virtuoso, who sang his cult hit, "Save Coney Island." (Watch the video at www.tinyurl.com/387157.)

The showman of the first few speakers gave way to sub-analysts of the city proposal,

some of which was supportive. "From an economic development point of view, the city's proposed redevelopment has a lot of for the neighborhood," said Rick Russo of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

And George Shea, the chairman of Major League Eating and a well-known Coney figure thanks to his role as ringmaster at the July 4 hot dog-eating contest, said his organization generally supported the plan as long as the amusement area remains diverse and not homogenized under the control of a single operator.

"Individual entrepreneurs can do what corporations can not," said Shea, who read a 1960s-era news clip about a Coney stunt featuring a woman trying to hatch an egg.

"This clip represents the soul of Coney Island," Shea said.

The public comment period for the city's proposed redevelopment of Coney Island will remain open until Friday, July 11, at 5 pm. Send written testimony to Rachel Bakley, Economic Development Corporation, 110 William St., New York, NY 10038.



Brooklyn artist Savitri D., camped out in a storefront window on Surf Avenue and waged a three-day hunger strike to protest the city's development plans for Coney Island.



The current city plan call for a nine-acre amusement zone.

From hunger

Savitri D., queen of the 2008 Mermaid Parade, went on a hunger strike to protest the city's redevelopment plan of Coney Island, but her three-day fast gave The Brooklyn Paper a rare opportunity to look at some of history's truly enduring trials of starvation:

HUNGER STRIKER	DETAILS	COMMENT
Mohandas Gandhi	No one could pass up a meal like the Mahatma. He went on repeated fasts during the 1930s and 1940s to protest British rule of India.	Amazing talent. And he looked good doing it (he put the fast in fastidious).
Bobby Sands	Sands, an Irish nationalist, succumbed to the privation of days into his 1981 strike — weighed in hopes of getting better treatment for political prisoners.	The standard by which all political fasts are judged.
Guantanamo detainees	Mass hunger strikes by protesting prisoners have rolled the American gulag in Cuba, and at times, have seen more than 200 inmates forgo food.	Good fast, but not winning any converts here.
Moses	This Biblical figure swore off food for 40 days and 40 nights on the path of righteousness, among many other instances of fasting in the Good Book.	Not to take anything away from Moses, but Biblical legends were in the 100s — so what's 40 days?
David Blaine	Not exactly a political protest, the magician spent 44 days in a transparent box above the River Thames in London in the pursuit of fame.	Gimmicky.

GOP

Continued from page 1
 ing to spend \$500,000 of his own money to deny Democrats the seats.

Powers, born in Park Slope and raised in Bay Ridge, was a retired Wall Street executive and a current board member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, but he never ran for public office before.

His campaign had barely gotten off the ground before it became the object of bewilderment when the same cast — as a Librarian. A Powers-Powers battle was averted when the Libertarian Party nominated someone else. Then, in one of his only public positions since becoming the presumptive candidate, he took the publicly unpopular position of fighting to retain the IEZ. Pass he and other MTA board members get.

"There's nothing illegal about what we're doing," Powers told The Brooklyn Paper in one of his last interviews.

"I don't particularly ride mass transit that much myself," he admitted in the same interview.

OUR OPINION

The balance of power?

So much for checks and balances. We are disappointed that the United States Supreme Court declined to hear a case brought by 11 slated-to-be-evicted property owners in the Atlantic Yards footprint.

While we sympathize with some of the arguments made by the plaintiffs in the case, *Goldstein v. Pataski*, our irritation with the High Court stems more from our belief in a fundamental American principal: each branch of government must balance the power of the other branches.

At its core, the issue in this case is New York State's insistence that Bruce Ratner's basketball arena, office and housing megaproject will bring about a "public benefit." The declaration of such a "public benefit" enables the state to use its eminent domain power to seize the 11 properties from their owners and give them to Ratner.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that when states condemn private property for a public benefit, they do not violate the Constitution's Fifth Amendment.

But in its most-recent ruling on such takings — the 2005 *Kelo* decision — the High Court declared that the "public benefit" cannot merely be a pretext for handing over one person's land to another person.

In a word, the benefit must be real. But who determines if the public actually benefits from a development? In its brief to the High Court, state officials said that only the state itself has the power to make that determination.

The 11 plaintiffs in *Goldstein v. Pataski* allege that a corrupt and cronyism-riddled Empire State Development Corporation simply used the pretext of public benefit to hand over properties so Ratner could make millions. Two federal courts have declined to examine this claim, saying that judges have no role in hearing challenges to a state's determination that a project is a "public benefit."

So, if a state agency says that a project

is a "public benefit," it is, *de facto*, a public benefit.

But what if the so-called "public benefit" isn't a benefit at all?

At the very least, plaintiffs should be able to take their case to a presumably impartial judge who would be empowered to determine whether the state cooked up a "public benefit" merely to justify a land grab for a wholly private benefit.

The Empire State Development Corporation argues that judges have no business meddling with the back-room dealings of state officials and the developers with whom they conspire — and the Supreme Court, in not taking up *Goldstein v. Pataski*, let this argument stand.

The role of the judiciary in determining whether [eminent domain] power is being exercised for a public purpose is an extremely narrow one," state lawyers wrote.

In other words, there are no checks and balances when eminent domain is involved.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

DeBlasio weighs in on our school crowding story

To the editor,

I was troubled to read about the rumors that the Department of Education may rezone some of the city's public schools in order to combat overcrowding ("Some children left behind" Park Slope edition and online, June 13).

New Yorkers are hugely invested in the public school system; homeowners and renters often choose their homes based on the location of their public schools, and homes zoned for high-performing schools command a premium.

Any school rezoning, anywhere in the city, will adversely affect the children currently enrolled in the school, the families who have moved to a neighborhood in anticipation of using a school and the property values of all residents.

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com
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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

Before resorting to drastic measures, the DOE should consider other options.

The DOE could lease space in underused parochial schools in the neighborhood, and use these annexes to house ancillary programs, such as pre-kindergarten.

I will strongly oppose any rezoning of our schools and fight to protect the investments that residents have already made in the futures of their children.

Bill DeBlasio, Park Slope
The writer is a City Councilman.

Wal-Mart woes

To the editor,

In your June 14 editorial, "Dreaming of a Wal-Mart," you say bringing a Wal-Mart to Downtown Brooklyn would also bring business to existing Mom-and-Pop stores.

Sir, what Mom-and-Pop stores do you speak of? Hardware stores, luncheonettes, candy stores, record stores and shoe stores are all gone. Everything is a chain or a 99-cent store.

Shopping in these stores is horrible compared to shopping in real stores — long lines, no service, items missing, empty shelves and broken merchandise are some of the horrors of big box stores. Wal-Mart is the biggest and worst of them all.

People with limited income are forced to shop in these stores, so you will see [no

Men are violence victims, too

To the editor,

Supervising Judge Jeffrey Sunshine correctly cites the rise in reported domestic violence incidents as causal of the skyrocketing divorce rate ("Splitville: Brooklyn divorces up 30%," The Brooklyn Angle, June 14). But he only references women as victims of abuse.

Every credible study of family violence shows that men are assaulted by their spouses at about the same rate as females. I can confirm that from 35 years as a marriage and family counselor.

Men are much more reluctant to report violence because they mistakenly believe that they should be able to take it in stride.

Wayne Johnson, Brooklyn Heights



Wayne Johnson, Brooklyn Heights

thing else Brooklyn has to offer for shopping. Len Shapiro, neighborhood withhold

To the editor,

I read that editorial with my heart pounding in my throat. As an urban planner, I shudder at the prospect of big box bad boy Wal-Mart setting up shop on the waterfront as it

is incongruous with the city's own waterfront revitalization program, which seeks to bolster water-dependent uses and public access in the Red Hook area.

However, as a Red Hook resident, I am far more anxious about how this epic land use struggle will further divide an already racially and economically bifurcated community.

While I steadfastly opposed Ikea and worked earnestly to derail its arrival in Red Hook, I was offended by the vitriol hurled by both sides during the Ikea environmental review process and completely put off by some members of anti-Ikea camp.

One lingering effect of the Ikea battle is the widening schism between households of the [more well-off part of the neighborhood] and Red Hook public housing residents.

This divide makes Red Hook far more prone to the proliferation of big box stores as real estate developers quickly capitalize on dissent among neighbors.

Moreover, fighting mega-projects not only requires an inordinate amount of time, money and skill, but also diverts vital resources away from civic matters that may unite Red Hook residents such as lowering crime, increasing mass transit, improving parklands, landmarking historic structures and working towards top-performing public schools.

Will normal neighborhood business be put on hold for years while we duke it over Wal-Mart? Elizabeth Ennish, Red Hook

Keep the circus

To the editor,

I am both elated and troubled by Friday's performance of the Metropolitan Opera in Prospect Park ("Nine days in Brooklyn," June 14). After the [earlier] announcement of the renovation of the Wollman Rink and its surrounding property, it was quietly disclosed that the annual visit from the Universal Circus would end.

Each year, the park makes space in the Long Meadow hall fields for the New York Philharmonic — and now the park is making space for its largest event ever, with an expected attendance of 150,000 for the Met Opera.

Is the park willing to make space for highbrow events like opera and symphony but not for the more common pleasures of clowns and tigers?

Lorne Loggia, Prospect-Lefferts Gardens

Marty is slippery

To the editor,

It was ironic to see Marty Markowitz leading up the Mermaid Parade in Coney Island on Saturday ("Editor's picks," June 14).

Markowitz is one of the signature enablers of the ongoing plans to bulldoze the place.

For such a supposed Brooklyn booster, he sure is trying hard to turn it into Manhattan. Scott Powell, Park Slope

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